

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

**October 7, 2024**

The Randolph County Council met at their regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Michael Wickersham, Gary Friend and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Council's update**

Mike said first item on the agenda is a council's update, and I don't see any county council folks here this morning. So, we'll go to the next item.

### **Brad Mullen – EMS Billing Contract (tabled from 9/16/24), Garage door replacement**

Mike said our EMS director, Brad Mullen. We have an EMS billing contract from Med-Bill which we tabled from our last meeting. And it looks like they've revised it to reflect the 5-year agreement?

Brad Mullen said yes.

Mike said and I believe this is a, obviously, brought to us by you, Brad, so it's something you want to enter and I think you told us last month that they do a really nice job in help in a lot of different ways.

Brad Mullen said yeah. I just got done doing the Medicare return so we can get money returned from this from the year before. And that company is highly impressed with this billing company. They work relatively good with Medicaid and Medicare. They give us training on how to document better per Medicare standards. Be a good thing for the county.

Mike said and our attorney has reviewed this contract?

Meeks said yeah.

Mike said I think I'd entertain a motion to approve the agreement with Med-Bill Corporation for a billing service agreement with the Randolph County EMS.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said and you have an issue with a garage door?

Brad Mullen said yeah. We have a, we're having some issues with our garage doors out at the station. Their remotes are going bad. The garage door openers are going bad. I have two quotes. Greenville Doors and MC Doors for them. I do have the funding for this. The one question I do have is that the possibility of the Coroner's office taking over our last two bays, do we want to do two doors that we use all the time, or do all four doors?

Gary Friend said I've worked with the Coroner a little bit. I think we should do two doors because there's going to be a little bit of a change of arrangement there. And then I think during that project the other two doors will be addressed.

Mike said do you have the money for two doors?

Brad Mullen said yes. And these doors are, the difference in the quotes is that one of them is a door that's set on an internet system. So, as soon as they go out, it stays open for like 90 seconds and it'll have the red beam in it, and if it doesn't get shut, it closes by itself. So, we won't have issues of doors being left open like we're having now that, now worrying about it and stuff like that.

Mike said like I don't know if we need to take any action or not.

Gary Friend said not if it's in his budget.

Mike said we appreciate you letting us know.

Brad Mullen said okay, thank you.

Gary Friend said you guys just put in two until we get the Coroner's situation?

Brad Mullen said yeah, I'm good with that.

Mike said yep. Thank you.

**Jake Donham – Floor care at RCFFO**

Mike said Jake Donham, floor care at the RCFFO building. Looks like we're going to strip and re-coat.

Jake Donham said yeah, the gentleman, kind of done a cold call. He was on site at our Health Department, noticed our floor conditions were, you know, ready for some strip and wax and it looks like most of our areas are settled down on moving around. That's kind of been the hold up on doing any of this. But, he went ahead and priced out 1, 2 and 3. I didn't have him look at the basement because it's really not a high traffic area. There's not a whole lot of action down there. So, we could probably get by not doing it and save a little bit of money. But the other ones, those are all of our public areas, public restrooms, and there's a few offsets like in the Health Department area that they're going to touch up as well.

Mike said okay, and cost is \$7,900.00?

Jake Donham said yeah.

Mike said and you don't have the money in your budget?

Jake Donham said I don't. If I did, I wouldn't even ask you. I'd have just done it.

Mike said so, I think it sounds like it needs to be done. I just need to find out a way to pay for it.

Gary Friend said I do too. Yeah, I we can pay with Commissioner's Cum Cap.

Mike said Commissioner's Cum Cap. Does that work for you, Gary?

Gary Girton said fine.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said okay.

Jake Donham said perfect. Thanks guys.

**Julie Wilson – Vacation carry over**

Mike said Julie Wilson. She's not here. We've got an issue at the 4-H office. Sue Thornburg has a total of 115.5 hours of overtime compensation, which is really her comp time. And that comp time is going to end in December. And she also has 77 hours of vacation and 14 hours of personal time. In order to use her vacation time, she must get her comp time down to 60 hours, which will mean it'll take 56.5 hours to get the comp time down to 59 hours, which is basically her vacation. She has 84 hours scheduled to be off and will continue to work at getting her hours down throughout the remainder of this year. She's asking, Julie Wilson is asking on behalf of Sue that we allow her to carry over any unused vacation time into 2025. We've done this in the past, but that's for emergency service personnel. My thinking almost is that if we modify in this instance, the handbook to allow her to take her vacation without use of comp time, and then in 2 months she's going to be paid out her comp time, she'll get her vacation this year and she won't have to carry anything over until next year. I think that would, I was hoping Julie would be here to make sure that would satisfy Sue, but I'm not, based upon this letter, it sounds like it would. So, basically, we're just saying we're going to ignore the part to have to bring her comp time down to 60 hours, allow her comp time to stay where it is, and let her use vacation. I'll make that motion.

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Jay Long – Secretary appointment**

Mike said Jay Long, county highway superintendent. He's got Nate with him and is this Jaycie?

Jay Long said yes.

Mike said how's it going out there?

Jay Long said good, you? Everybody doing alright? I guess why we're here today is, I guess you know, our secretary position isn't filled. Jaycie's been doing all the work, you know, trying to keep up, battling that out for maybe a month now. We've got 30 to 35 applicants, maybe a little bit more than that. So, we were just trying to move forward on getting a secretary or you know, somebody to help fill in that role out there. So, in my eyes, she's done a great job, so I'm hoping you know, that she will be able to take over the assistant administrator spot. So, that's where we're at on that.

Mike said so you're recommending Jaycie?

Jay Long said yes.

Mike said for the county highway secretary position?

Gary Friend said it's administrator.

Jay Long said administrator, yeah.

Mike said administrator.

Jay Long said yes. She does a really good job. She worked with Joe. She also works with the ladies here at the courthouse really well. And she does a very good job at it.

Gary Friend said are there state certificates you have to get?

Jay Long said yeah, we have to figure out the ERC things like that, where Jessica was doing that with the bridge, you know, things like that. Still some things we have to work out and find out, you know, all the answers on that.

Gary Friend said this is just a matter of time getting down to do it?

Jay Long said yes. Well, under the circumstances, you know, our other secretary is gone, so we're trying to still pick up.

Gary Friend said is Jaycie going to take care of some of the employee and charts responsibility?

Jay Long said yes. She does all the charts and everything now. So, I mean, ultimately, everything comes to us first, but then we help her out, we don't know, we also reach out to Joe.

Mike said we've heard the recommendation.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Jay Long said just to give you an update on our paving. Over a little bit 4 miles done paving. The guys are actually out there putting stone along that road now, doing the shoulder work and stuff they they'll continue until we get it finished up.

Mike said what road is that?

Jay Long said there on Base road, starting at 200, working east.

Gary Friend said one last question on your administrative situation. Are you actively searching her replacement?

Jay Long said yes. Actually, I printed out some this morning, some that we've actually went through. We've got some really good candidates, but we just didn't know if we could move, you know what I mean, where I could move on that.

Mike said okay. Keep us advised.

Jay Long said yep and we are currently fully staffed at the shop now, except for that position there.

Mike said that's good.

Jay Long said it's working out really well.

Mike said it's been a while since they were full staffed.

Nate said it's going to be nice this winter.

Jay Long said other than that, that's it for us.

Mike said very good.

**Joe Copeland – Financial Commitment letter, culvert quotes**

Mike said Joe Copeland, county highway engineer. Got a couple of things to talk to us about this morning. Financial commitment letter. Is this for safety?

Joe Copeland said yeah, that's for that safety money. The state had had a call for safety money. And for the future, if you want to get federal money to replace regulatory warning signs, you have to have a sign inventory. That is a requirement. So, all this is doing is going out and having a consultant do the sign inventory. They'll tell you what the type of sign it is, the size of the sign. It'll also, they'll also measure the, what they call a retro-reflectivity of the sign. There're minimum standards for that too, in the manual. So, we need to try and comply with the manual. It's really, and it pays 90%. The total bill will be \$164,800, but our share will only be

\$16,480. And then this will give you the ability to do sign replacement in the future if you want to. I've done some in another county, actually, a couple, and we just took several townships and went through and did a total sign replacement. They were running about, between 5 and \$600,000.00 and we were paying only 10% of that. So, that was a pretty good deal.

Mike said what we're looking at here is just the inspection cost?

Joe Copeland said just the inspection, yes, just the inspection.

Mike said that puts us in line to get a grant for replacing?

Joe Copeland said yes sir.

Meeks said I think we did this 10 or 15 years ago. We had something similar.

Joe Copeland said oh, did you?

Mike said I wouldn't know why we wouldn't want to do it?

Gary Friend said I don't either.

Mike said I guess my, I mean, if it's \$16,480.00 I think, is this an appropriate ARPA expense?

Gary Friend said it could be. It's also appropriate for a highway.

Mike said Windfarm, highway and Windfarm.

Joe Copeland said I'd just pay it out of highway.

Mike said oh, okay.

Gary Friend good. I'd make a motion we approve.

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said thank you Application is due on the 11<sup>th</sup>. So, I'll that in. It's ready to go except this letter.

Mike said we've got two culvert quotes, two of them.

Joe Copeland said yes. Culvert 3247 on 1200 East south of 400 North, and culvert 2441 on 400 East south of 750 North. Total combined cost is \$130,005.00. These are both concrete boxes, 4-sided.

Mike said and who's that \$130,000 quote from?

Joe Copeland said CivilCon. I requested quotes from 3 different companies. But I, I don't know who else to go to. But I believe that the county materials, the last one, is supplying CivilCon with the culverts. They are the actual manufacturer in Maxwell, Indiana. So, CivilCon and E3 Bridge are more sales companies that go through.

Mike said so, I'm looking at CivilCon's two quotes and they add up to more than \$130,000.00.

Joe Copeland said the reason there's a, what they call a puller that they've added in there.

Mike said a what?

Joe Copeland said hydraulic puller machine.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said alright. I did not put that in there because E3 Bridge did not have that in their quote, so I wanted to keep them apples to apples.

Mike said but the cost is going to be \$132,505.00?

Joe Copeland said yes. We will need the puller machine unless the contractor who installs it, has one. They save a lot of time.

Mike said okay. And what's the condition of these culverts now?

Joe Copeland said pretty bad.

Mike said time to replace them? They're not closed?

Joe Copeland said no, they're not closed, but they're bad.

Mike said what's the time line on replacement?

Joe Copeland said soon as they're completed, I'll have them done by the end of the year.

Mike said you've heard the recommendation.

Gary Friend said yeah, I'll make a motion to approve.

Mike said have a motion to approve CivilCon for the replacement of the culverts, one at 1200 East south of 400 North and the other at 400 East, south of 750 North. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

Mike said thank you.

Joe Copeland said update on bridge 304, here in Winchester, all the properties have been acquired except one, and it's going to condemnation. The question I had was does Meeks want to do, to record the documents?

Meeks said yeah, if you have them, we can record them.

Joe Copeland said want me to send them to you?

Meeks said yeah, just send them to me.

Joe Copeland said okay. I'll send them all to you so you can.

Meeks said we'll get them recorded.

Joe Copeland said okay.

Gary Friend said I have a question. On 1000 I mean, the studies on that, what's transpiring?

Joe Copeland said right now they're putting together a plan or a couple of plans, you know, you can do this or you can do that, and the big thing is they're coming up with cost on doing that, on how much it will cost to upgrade both roads, 1000 and.

Gary Friend said 900?

Joe Copeland said yes. And 900 is pretty poor shape. I mean, it's got some severe rutting now, before we even put a lot of trucks on it. 1000 West had one, they took cores and some of the cores, the minimum amount of asphalt is 3 inches. So, I said maybe we can overlay it and since it's not showing any deterioration at this point, so overlay it and see if, as long as we don't raise it too high, and go that way would be a cheaper route. We do have a culvert to replace, a narrow culvert on that stretch of roadway.

Gary Friend said and on 800 North, I believe, coming out to Highway 1, is there any work on that road or looking at it? I know that US Ag is not having a lot of luck with the owner of the property to reroute the road, to the north side of that house.

Joe Copeland said yeah, they're going to look at that on how much it would cost to take that out and around. And I don't, I haven't looked at the property lines to know how far north he owns. We may be able to go around him, but I know there'll be damages, quite a bit of damages to the property owner for payment if we do that. So, it's, not, that one's not an easy fix. That's going to have to take total reconstruction.

Gary Friend said I think I've been seeing a lot more trucks coming out of Fairview now.

Joe Copeland said is there?



Gary Friend said and they're not going to stay on Highway 1, they're just going straight, straight down 900 to 32 when they get on one.

Joe Copeland said yeah, that's what I was afraid of. I mean, if they're going south and west, they'll head straight south. Yeah, you're right. So, we need to look at that a little bit too and see what we can do to detour them from doing that. It may be pretty hard to do. But otherwise, 1000 West, I gave the engineer a couple of ideas on how to, he was talking, soil stabilization and with cement, and that's pretty salty. That's pretty expensive. You are talking several hundred thousand dollars to do that. There are some other things that you might be able to do, and using what they call a geogrid material for the sub-grade, and I think they ought to, I asked them to look at that also, on the cost. I think that would be a lot cheaper. And a special geogrid. There's a couple of different kinds. I've had best luck with what they call a tri-ax.

Mike said okay. Any questions of Joe?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said thanks Joe.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

**Ed Thornburg – Utility agreements**

Mike said Ed Thornburg, utility agreements. Two of them from Frontier.

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Mike said anything we should know about these?

Ed Thornburg said they're both house drops.

Mike said okay.

Ed Thornburg said they're just basically, line maintenance.

Mike said and you're recommending approval?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said they're single house drops too aren't they?

Ed Thornburg said yeah, yeah both of these two are. Less investigating on these than most of them.

Mike said anything else for us this morning?

Ed Thornburg said not for now.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

**Debra Johnting – Ordinance 2024-20 Flood Plain Ordinance and Ordinance 2024-17 (second reading)**

Mike said Debra Johnting, Area Planning Commission Director, got a couple ordinances to take a look at. Why don't we start with our second reading for ordinance number 2024-17. That's an ordinance to amend the tax unified zoning ordinance of Randolph County. And this ordinance is an amendment to the solar ordinance. And we have passed it unanimously after the first reading at our last meeting and we're here for the second reading. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve the amendment to the zoning, the solar ordinance, ordinance number 2024-17 by title only.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules and have the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading today. I've heard nothing back on it.

Mike said I've not heard anything either. I have a motion to suspend the rules and have the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading today. Do I have a 2<sup>nd</sup>?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve ordinance number 2024-17, an ordinance to amend the tax unified zoning ordinance of Randolph County Indiana by title only.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that motion carries. Ordinance number 2024-17 is hereby adopted. Now we can talk about the flood plane ordinance. And this has been presented to the Area Plan Commission and it's been approved by the Area Planning Commission. And we are here for the first reading, ordinance number 2024-20, an ordinance to amend the tax unified zoning ordinance of Randolph County and the amendment of the flood ordinance. So, do you want to tell us a little bit about it?

Debra Johnting said this is recommended by DNR. They gave us a few options but basically, it's their updated ordinance. And their recommendation is to stay in the NFIP that we approve this. NFIP is the National Flood Insurance Program that we want to be a part of.

Mike said Gary, were you involved with this?

Gary Friend said I was. There was a lot of discussion on it, and of course, Ed, our surveyor, was involved in some of the discussions. It's a difficult ordinance to understand. It just happens to be one of things we are nearly pressured into doing to stay up with DNR. So, it was so difficult it was almost like they need a handbook on how to read the ordinance.

Debra Johnting said yes. One of the things that they did not suggest and we didn't put in this time was a higher standard for Randolph County that any field you put in, the one location you took out on another location on a property, made it difficult for someone trying to build in the fringe because in some cases, it was, you had to get a surveyor and engineer to even find out if you had met that. So, that's coming out. That's the best thing, folks are waiting for that to change so that they don't have to do that to replace a garage that was damaged in the tornado.

Mike said so we could have left the higher standard, or had a higher standard?

Debra Johnting said we could have.

Mike said than this one requires.

Debra Johnting said their caution was, and their suggestion was they're not even encouraging higher standards unless you're totally committed. The worst thing you can do is put in a higher standard and then ask for variances for that. That calls attention to what you're doing in a county. And you don't want to do that.

Mike said the homeowner can still put in a higher standard though if they chose to, could do so?

Debra Johnting said they could.

Mike said okay. Any questions of Debra?

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we approve this ordinance on the first reading

Mike said have a motion to approve ordinance number 2024-20, a flood damage preventive ordinance by title only without reading after the first reading.

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that motion carries. Do you want to wait and have the second reading in two weeks?

Gary Friend said yes.

Mike said okay, we'll wait and have that second reading in two weeks Debra. Thank you.

Gary Friend said thanks for your work on this Debra.

Debra Johnting said using it more, the more you use it, the more you'd be familiar with it. However, we're kind of at their mercy to take what they gave us and we did our best to try to understand it, how it would impact the county. And I do think it's best.

Mike said okay.

Debra Johnting said thank you.

**Jentry Flesher – Insurance renewal**

Mike said next item is Jentry Flesher, our insurance renewal.

Jentry Flesher said good morning.

Mike said when do we have to do this?

Jentry Flesher said today.

Gary Girton said in October, right now.

Jentry Flesher said seems like we've had that conversation before. I look back and three years ago we received the renewal on September 12<sup>th</sup>. A couple years ago, it was a week later. And this year, I received it last Tuesday afternoon.

Meeks said can I ask you a question, Jentry?

Jentry Flesher said yes.

Meeks said what's a designated wrongful employment practice, when your practice is liability.

Jentry Flesher said that's the, I believe the hiring and firing.

Meeks said okay, that's what I thought.

Jentry Flesher said sexual harassment, discrimination.

Meeks said I thought so.

Jentry Flesher said they have a weird abbreviation for, it's different than other carriers. I put together some notes at the top page. This is kind of my takeaways from the renewal, and to simplify things and keep things short for the meeting. But, last year was kind of the beginning of it, and we're still in an insurance, what's called a hard market. And if you've received your own personal insurance, your homeowners, your auto, if you stayed the same great, but most likely, things increased. And the property carriers are, I would say, the most to blame for this property rates, across all carriers, not carrier dependent, have increased. It's almost like they had a powwow and met over Christmas holiday and all agreed on this. But one of the things to know is Bliss McKnight, for an account of this size, Chubb Property is their only option for an account

this size. And so, traditionally, we do a 5 or 6% inflation guard on building limits and equipment. And that's what we did this year. We did a 5%. So, if you take the inflation guard, plus their increase in property rate, and then another thing to note that we need to discuss is we had a \$10,000.00 deductible, and they're making it a standard on an account this size to have a minimum \$25,000.00 deductible. So, they've increased deductible. And then, I want to come back, I want to come back to the Randolph County Fairgrounds at the end and discuss that, because I've been in discussion with Roger Gouff and some folks over there, and how we want to handle what's going on out there with the new construction. Then the multi-class liability, this is your different lines of liability, GIE, which is owned by Bliss McKnight, takes care of this governmental insurance exchange. 6% increase, which I feel, in my opinion, is modest. We've got great favorable losses there. What's affected that mainly was we had an audit last year for the 2022 to 2023 policy period to reflect higher payrolls in the county, and that does affect the multi-class liability. And then the business auto, this last year, compared to the year prior, we have had significant increase in auto losses. Some of those were the tornado, comprehensive, act of God, weather events, and then we've had some collision losses there, as well. But, looking at the rates in general, those are staying fairly consistent. I would say we've been affected by an update of auto units, higher cost new and some newer units on the schedule. BITCO work comp losses this year are very favorable and our experience mod is 0.79. Anything less than 1, I consider good, at 1.00. The work comp rates are consistent. Payroll increased per audit last year, so, not only do you have premium due in the rears, then we changed the payroll effect in the forwards. And so, that's where you see kind of an increase in the dollars, but the rates are staying the same. And then Cyber, I'm a very strong proponent believer in this in the climate we're in, and you know, the geo-political climate, 2023 premium, \$7,940. 2024, actually softening a little bit to \$7,175. So, those are my main takeaways. If we want to go back and have discussion on the Randolph County fairgrounds, Chubb Property can handle this. But we need to take care of course construction. If anything were to happen to the buildings that are in the process of being built, which they are the most vulnerable, and then we have a lot of building materials sitting out there. So, theft of building materials is also of concern. The question is, is how does the county want to handle the endorsement premium and Roger had a question on that. And we don't have to answer it today.

Meeks said there's a lease. We have to pull the lease out to see what the 4-H.

Jentry Flesher said okay.

Meeks said so, there's a written lease. Laura, you have that right?

Laura said yes.

Meeks said I'd have to dig it out. Can you dig that out and see what the lease says? But, I though we only had general liability. I don't think we've ever insured the buildings, property out there, just if somebody got hurt.

Jentry Flesher said well the buildings are on the building schedule.

Meeks said on ours?

Jentry Flesher said yes.

Meeks said and not the 4-H's?

Jentry Flesher said huh uh.

Meeks said we'll have to pull that lease.

Jentry Flesher said yeah, okay.

Meeks said I did not realize that.

Jentry Flesher said yeah, they are on our building schedule and have been.

Mike said so, we're insuring them for 4-H Incorporated.

Jentry Flesher said correct.

Meeks said I don't think the lease says that.

Jentry Flesher said okay.

Meeks said I'll get the lease.

Jentry Flesher said okay.

Gary Friend said what buildings, we're building a new building.

Meeks said I'll send it to you. I'll get it from Laura and send it to you.

Gary Friend said we're building a new building in Farmland right now.

Jentry Flesher said okay.

Mike said and the same issues would apply there, as well.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Meeks said but we will own that.

Jentry Flesher said it's in Farmland?

Gary Friend said yeah. It's on Jackson Street, east of the VP, 3 blocks.

Meeks said can't miss it.

Jentry Flesher said it's being built right now?

Gary Friend said right now, yeah.

Jentry Flesher said well, I'll get with you, Meeks, on the lease and see what.

Meeks said yeah, I'll get the schedule of things you have too, to see if there's anything else on that schedule, if you could send that to me.

Jentry Flesher said yeah.

Mike said so, we've heard Jentry's presentation. Looks like last year we paid a total of \$450,287.00 in premium and this year to renew the policy as presented, would be \$501,494.00.

Gary Friend said so, about 10%, it's gone up?

Mike said a little over 10.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we move forward.

Mike said I have a motion to move forward with the county insurance policy as presented. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Laura said do you have one you want him to sign?

Jentry Flesher said yeah, I need one signature.

#### **Justin Lester-- Journey Home lease**

Mike said next item is the Journey Home lease and Justin Lester is here on behalf of Journey Home, and Daniel Baker is a board member representative. A couple of things. We're here to discuss a plan going forward to resolve some of the issues that the Journey's Home has had over the last 2 or 3 weeks, it's involved Jake, and I think Jake reported to us, and then we're also here to talk about the lease, which expired in April with the Journey Home. So, I'll let you begin, Justin.

Justin Lester said okay. So, as far as the items that Jake had, we've resolved most of those issues. It's still an ongoing process for facility training and staff and I outlined that to you Mr. Wickersham, in our meeting. I sent an action plan to the rest of the board detailing most of those items. The landscape has changed for a lot of things in this country since COVID, and smoking and vaping is one of them. So, vaping isn't something we've had a problem with in the past, but is something that has started to become more pertinent in most of the veterans instead of

smoking. So, we've put things in place to make sure policies are there so that we don't have unnecessary calls to the fire department that don't need to be made.

Mike said okay. Well I received a copy of your action plan for transition to enhance security and safety. And this just wasn't for us. It was for the VA as well, wasn't it?

Justin Lester said correct, yes. The VA did ask for some compliance in these issues as well, and we made sure that we have made the changes and are continuing to make changes in the right direction.

Mike said okay. And if the changes are implemented and sent out, I think it should probably resolve the issues we had. I do have a couple questions about your action plan. One of them is, you mentioned the security being there from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., I didn't know what supervision or what was happening from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.?

Justin Lester said so, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. it will be both myself and Stacie or in conjunction, running the building, and then we will have case managers on site. We are being more active with getting the veterans out in the community to be more constructive, as well. That way, they're not just sitting around for all day, every day, until they get housed, and making sure that we can give back to the community in a continued way that we have to Randolph County in the past.

Mike said and then the other question I had, and mentioned in here about the door locking and unlocking policy, when is the door locked and when is it unlocked?

Justin Lester said so, traditionally, it was locked from 8 p.m. or, from when 3<sup>rd</sup> shift started at 11 p.m. until 7 a.m., while the security is on site, it will be from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. But, we've made signage for the buzzer so that nobody gets locked out or anything of that manner. That way, there is clear communication to anybody, and we can have somebody at the door when we need to.

Mike said okay. So, it is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.?

Justin Lester said yes.

Mike said okay. That's the only questions I had.

Gary Friend said I have concerns more than questions, and then I'll just be straight up. I'm not in favor pushing your lease past April of 2025, and I will tell you why. I personally think you need 6 months to find another location to be because I don't believe the environment there is conducive to house residents with needs that I believe undertrained staff to take care of, no matter what time of day. So, I think the Journey Home has a mission. I think it has, something needs to be done, but I think it's in the wrong place for all the other social service activities going on out there. I just can't warm up to the fact that we have adult personnel with needs, serious needs in a really minorly overlooked situation without professional immediate staff to take care of those needs. So, I think the Journey Home is just in the wrong location, and I'm not in favor



of doing anything more than extending their lease to April to give you time to find a new location. That's my feeling.

Justin Lester said so, to answer that, just to kind of talk to those points, with the security being in place from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., that allows for more trained individuals to be there from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., as was the case when one of the fire alarms went off. We want nothing more to insure the safety of everyone in the building, in the community. We have an LCSW on staff, which is also a requirement of the VA contract. She's on call any hour of the day that needs to be. The security team will be on call to her as well. As far as training of staff, in the past, there have been staff that haven't been as credentialed as possible, but moving forward, we want to make sure that everybody's safety is in mind. We do not want to move forward in a capacity where safety isn't the first and foremost thing on our mind.

Gary Friend said I don't doubt that's your desire at all. I don't, but I believe you're in the wrong location in my mind. And your staff out there is also dependent of, if you keep the beds full or don't be able to afford it, what happens if you can't afford the staff? Six months from now, you're still running 5 or 6 residents and you don't have the funding, what goes first? Which thing do you now pay for that, the people that live there are at risk of being under staffed. So, I can't get there.

Daniel Baker said correct.

Gary Friend said I just can't get there. I can get there with the veterans and the veteran's help, but not in that location. There're just too many things that go on, and it doesn't make that, in my opinion, a good spot for a residential type of place to house people with special needs.

Daniel Baker said I'll speak to some of that. So, for one, I just do want to point out that Journey Home has been around for 11 years now. So, we've been, the community has supported this organization for at least over a decade. There's been a lot of turmoil, but there's also been a lot of great things that have come out of the Journey Home. I mean, we've helped hundreds, if not thousands of veterans in this organization, both in the facility and out in the community. So, a termination of the lease, although I agree that we, another location would be viable, but I would be open to what, where, right, so where could we go in this environment? So, I would say that every member of the board, every volunteer, every donor that we have ever had, and has supported this facility, we're grateful for that opportunity, and I also wanted to say thank you for you guys for the support over the last decade. But the issues that we have seen over the last few years with staffing and things like that, have been like Justin has been mentioning, have been an issue that the board is very aware of and we are trying to make sure that we do have the proper staff in place. That's why in the community, you have heard about people who have left or who are no longer working at the organization, and then the staff that we are bringing in are to address those concerns, to make sure that we get our veterans the best care possible. And if something were to happen where if we were to lose all of our donations, if we were to lose the VA contract, we have a very good relationship with the VA where those veterans would be able to go to a different facility somewhere else. But they are here in our community. And a lot of times, what happens, what people don't recognize, is that not all veterans in this community are Randolph County residents. I wish I could say they were, but they're not. But, what happens a lot of times

is we bring those veterans into the community and sometimes those veterans choose to stay in this community. Many are working in our community and trying to make it better. And I can tell you that I don't have the exact list and number of veterans, but I can tell you that many of them are working, productive members of our community. And part of our mission is to end homeless veteran, homelessness for veterans. And I can tell you this is a huge passion of mine, because I don't want to see any veteran ever on the street, ever. And if I have to do whatever I can to do that, I'm going to do it. So, that's why I'm part of this organization. That's why I believe the community is behind this organization. I know there's been a lot of things in the community, we all know rumor mill. We all know that stuff. But if you have questions, if you have concerns, my door is always open for everything. I agree that we do have some veterans that do need extra support, but we have seen hundreds of veterans go through that that may have just lost their home. They just need a place to kind of re-group, spend 3 to 6 months to try to find a new location. There're many of those stories as well.

Gary Friend said Dan, I'm talking about the wrong location. Everything you said, I agree with. It doesn't need to happen in that building. It's the wrong, in my opinion only, right now, it's the wrong building for this type of activity. I don't disagree with everything you're saying, and you know that the VA should be behind this, they should help you find another building if they're really all in, and you were asking the community, you know, it's not very much of a percentage, veterans that even in Randolph County community. It's not very much at all actually. So, these veterans who are there, and by the way, homelessness hurts all people, veterans, I agree, but it's not just related to veterans. I mean, homeless is a bad thing. But it's the wrong building. You guys addressed to why, I get all that, address to me why that's the right building, and convince me that's the right building for now and for in the future, 10, 12, 20 years from now. If it gets to where you want it, it's 3 men, 3 grown men to a room.

Justin Lester said correct.

Gary Friend said that's just not conducive to good health, I don't think.

Justin Lester said so, to just, to speak to that.

Gary Friend said tell me why the building is the right building.

Justin Lester said it's the right building.

Gary Friend said why?

Justin Lester said because why, it seems to you that 3 is not a great environment.

Gary Friend said that's just one of the issues.

Justin Lester said I know, I know. I'm using that as an example. Most homeless shelters in bigger cities, bigger places, it's 20, 30 even 40 men to a room. In Detroit, Michigan alone, there are homeless shelters where people have to sit in chairs to sleep because it is so bad. So, while a lot of places, and the Muncie Mission, as well, I think it's 20 people to a room. So, 3 people to a

room, there are issues there where we have to make sure it's the right people in the right places, but it is a lot better situation than most homeless shelters go. As far as the actual building, it used to be a hospital, so the spacing for 15 men at one, at maximum capacity, at one time, is perfect for them to have enough space to be able to get on their feet, for us to be able to have conversations with them when they are in need so that other things don't arise. So, if there are any of those veterans that do have any other issues that are at a higher need than anybody else, we have the space so that they can work out those issues with a professional on site at any time.

Gary Friend said well I mean, we could go on all day and I won't do that to you folks.

Justin Lester said but you just asked the question. That's the only reason I even went on.

Gary Friend said but you didn't answer why that building, just because it's an old hospital is not good enough for me. If the VA is all in about helping homeless veterans, which we need their support, there's no doubt it, then why isn't the VA or your board looking at finding a more permanent long-term location that you own? That you have control over, that it's more conducive to what else goes on. There's a lot that goes on out there that doesn't need to have in the back of their mind, what if one of these residents happens to get to a point where it's not good for the whole place? You just don't need to be there.

Justin Lester said I think that could be said for anybody though, any resident of any building could do that at any time.

Gary Friend said I'm done Mike.

Daniel Baker said so, to address that, one is, as a non-profit, you have donors for us, so the funding isn't there to go pursue another building at this time. The funding isn't there to go and move the facility. What I would say, the current facility gives us an opportunity to work with the community. We have seen issues in the past, but like I was trying to say, is you haven't seen the thousands of things that have went right. We always see the things that go wrong. The community has supported the organization and I believe that's why we need to stay in that facility because the community sees that. And I have talked to individuals in the community, they're proud to have that. Now, do we have to address these concerns, absolutely. And these concerns have always been continuously addressed in the past. So, in my opinion, it is a viable location. I understand that there're other concerns there, but the facility itself, is a great location in terms of all the help that our veterans have been able to receive over the last decade. And they're able to consider that a home. We had a lot of veterans that go through that shelter and they come back. They do their laundry. They do other things. It's a community that has been created over the last decade. And if we choose to move that building somewhere else, those veterans that have decided to stay in this community, they're going to have to go somewhere else to find that community relationship. So, that's why I think it's a very viable location.

Gary Friend said we'll have to agree to disagree. I disagree.

Daniel Baker said I agree. We agree to disagree on a lot, Gary.

Mike said Gary Girton?

Gary Girton said well I think they've served, as Dan said, they've served a lot of veterans over the years. I was involved with the organization for a number of years. And they've had a lot of issues. And I was involved with some of those. But it is something that I think is positive. It can be very positive under the right management and the right control. I think it was very hard for the organization to get established and get VA approval and VA working with them and helping to finance them, and helping them work as a group. I think that's been very important that we've seen. I was first on the board when they first started. It was difficult, we have enough money to pay the expenses two months into the future. But now that's a little more secure. I understand that there are issues with people there, and hopefully, with the new programs you're approaching with the security will help that. I know as far as going elsewhere and the staff probably is very close to impossible. That structure right there that you've got and are utilizing was established, good amount of money was put together to construct that part of the building for a secured youth organization. And with the rooms and so on built and established there. And, it served its purpose for a short period of time and had for different reasons has chosen to move that out and put it mostly in Delaware County. But I think there is a need for it. And I think we just need to, as commissioners, we need to be more involved in being aware of what's happening all the time as far as communications and transparency. And I think that has lacked some in the last few years since I've been off the board. But I do think it's important that the facility be maintained in the best way we can. And when issues develop, that we work to correct them and if we can't correct them, then it comes to the point from my perspective, that they're not correctable, then, to the satisfaction of the community, then the facility should be moved. And at this point, I'm not in favor of that.

Mike said well what we have is, right now, we've got an expired lease. So, we're in agreement to go month to month right now, and correct me if I'm wrong.

Meeks said you have a holdover lease so it's a month-to-month lease at this point.

Mike said commissioners votes today, we could ask them to leave in 30 days?

Meeks said 30 days. You have to give them a 30-day notice to quit.

Mike said and I hear Gary say that they shouldn't be here because of the nature of the facility, and he's thinking April 2025 expiration.

Gary Friend said I am.

Mike said I came in this morning thinking we're on a month-to-month, I've got two months left on my term, I'm not real keen on binding the new commissioners to long term agreements. I've never been in favor of that. We've got a couple of these others here that we're looking at that are somewhat concerning to me. But I don't think, two things, I've not heard any concerns about the Journey Home until Jake brought his concerns to me and then he brought another tenant's concern to me in the last 60 days. And I do think the Journey Home does good things. It's a difficult thing to find the appropriate staff, and I also think that we need to maintain the facility

you're in to the highest standards because we have a lot of other tenants that require that. And your plan going forward, to me, sounds like a good plan, not only for the county, but for the VA as well. But I'm still going back that I, there's no, I can't agree to a 5-year lease today. But I could agree to a one-year lease which would, maybe just a little longer lease that would expire at the end of December of 2025. That would give an opportunity for this plan of action to be put in place, and an opportunity for the new commissioners to understand and find out what you're doing and let them determine on their own whether this is a good program for the county, and whether this is the best location, and would then give you 14 months to maybe find another location if that's at all possible. So, I say that, and there's nothing magic about the end of the year, although it's a calendar year basis, and since we're held over since April 19<sup>th</sup>, I don't think there's any special date about it expiring in April or anything. That's what I would move at this time is that we enter a lease agreement with the Journey Home and I would say for the same rent amount under the same terms and conditions that would expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Gary Girton seconded the motion.

Mike said have a motion and a second. Have anything else you want to say?

Gary Friend said yeah. I think I can re-negotiate to the end of 2025, with the same concerns, just giving them a little more time to fix, you know, giving you more time to convince me or the other two new commissioners that come on, why that's the location for long term, and it's nothing to do with whether I want veterans to get the help they need. I don't want anybody homeless, veteran or not. It has everything to do with, if this is going to be a long-term thing to bring into Randolph County, then long term means permanent place to go. I mean these folks need help, that's not only staff on the ready when you need it, you don't have it there. It's highly concerning to me in the area that it's at. If it's in its own area, it wouldn't, Mike I agree with you. I don't think April is a date that matters as much to me as me personally, letting you folks know that I'm prepared to take any heat necessary to say you're in the wrong spot, not the wrong mission, wrong place. So, I'm okay with going to the end of 2025.

Mike said so, all in favor of that motion? You guys have anything you want to add?

Daniel Baker said no, I just wanted to say thank you for this opportunity. I think we also gives the board a way. The board is regrouping as well, after some losses, and so, we're trying to build the board back up and our staff. So, that gives us an opportunity to do that. So, I appreciate that timeline.

Gary Friend said the board needs to get it together.

Daniel Baker said we've been getting it together. We just, behind the scenes.

Gary Friend said I should take that back. They should take the responsibility that they also have soles in their control out there.

Daniel Baker said oh, I can tell you that. We have, right now, we are a majority of veterans.

Gary Friend said with no disrespect to your board. It's done a big job.

Daniel Baker said we're are a majority of veterans now and that's a big chip on our board. And I can tell you we are very passionate about this.

Gray Friend said understood.

Mike said all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Daniel Baker said thank you.

Justin Lester said thank you for your time. I'm going to give you guys my card so if you have any questions.

Mike said welcome back Daniel.

Daniel Baker said thank you.

#### **Kay Gordon- Head Start lease**

Mike said Key Gordon. Morning Kay. Head Start lease.

Kay Gordon said I think you've had, I hope you have had the opportunity to see the lease that we are proposing. We're the new grantee taking a permanent spot from CDI, who's in place now. We will assume operations November 1. In Randolph County, as well as we're going to be providing services in Blackford, Jay, Randolph and Wells Counties. So, if you have questions, I will do my best to answer them.

Meeks said I did. If it's a \$1400, did you look at the number, because it had the lease rate at \$79,800, \$1,400 a month, so when I multiplied that out, I got \$84,000. Was I wrong?

Kay Gordon said in for a 57-month period?

Meeks said I thought it said 5 year.

Kay Gordon said I believe actually, when I looked at it, it was a 57-month period. And I didn't put the lease together. I'm representing today the organization.

Mike said it begins November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeks said oh, I read the 5-year. I emailed you guys, yeah. So, we'd have to figure that out.

Kay Gordon said I just did the math with my, I divided the \$1,400 into \$79,800. But, the reason, and we can make those adjustments to meet the criteria and make sure the math is right. The reason, we receive a 5-year grant for our Head Start programs and we received this granted

started 1<sup>st</sup> of September. We don't actually assume operations until November 1, and then our grant will run that full 5-year period from September 1. We are guaranteed funding during that time period. And so, we have the funds available now to pay the lease up front if you all are amenable to that for the 57-month period?

Mike said a lump sum payment?

Kay Gordon said yes.

Meeks said I think it might be 58.

Kay Gordon said is it 58?

Meeks said yeah.

Kay Gordon said okay. I just quickly did it.

Mike said it would be \$81,200.00 for 58 months.

Kay Gordon said okay.

Meeks said the other question, on the cost and utilities, we're going to have to re-do that section. I don't think it's separately metered. And it says leasee pays and then it says, the very next one, landlord will pay and had the same thing.

Gary Girton said right.

Meeks said so, if you look at 4A and 4B, it says leasee will pay for all pest control, sewer, water, but then goes on to say landlord will pay for all pest control, sewer, water, etc.

Mike said and we do pay pest control, sewer, water, as well as gas and electric. We do not pay phone or internet. Correct, Jake?

Jake Donham said I can't hardly hear you. What's that?

Mike said we don't pay phone or internet down there?

Meeks said no, we do not.

Jake Donham said no, all the tenants in that building, they pay all their own phone, internet and stuff like that.

Meeks said it's not separately metered.

Jake Donham said yeah, it's all separate meters on everything.

Meeks said so the garbage service, we provide that?

Jake Donham said yes, garbage as well. Pest control, we do the whole building, but in the past, I think CDI, they'd had their own company come in. So, I just kind of touch base with them and if there's any other areas, while he's on site monthly, he'll spray as well.

Meeks said so, number 40 needs updated. If you would send it to Audry in word we could make those changes and send it to you.

Mike said and the other issue you raised was the concern at the end of the term, renew the lease for 5 years again. And I guess it would be typical that we would have an opportunity to renegotiate that rent then?

Kay Gordon said yes.

Mike said so would you have a problem with our attorney adding that language into paragraph, under term, paragraph B, 60 days prior to the expiration of the term to renew this lease.

Kay Gordon said to re-negotiate it.

Mike said yeah, re-negotiate it.

Kay Gordon said that's fine.

Mike said I feel like for the last 12 years, we've been pretty fair on rent at that building. I can't speak for the new people.

Gary Friend said I have a question, and you underlined the lease. If the facility has to be licensed by State law, how would it not?

Kay Gordon said it would be very unlikely that it would not be, but if, and it is licensed now, so we don't see any issues with that. We do have to go through the licensing process and get it into our name.

Meeks said yeah, could you get that to me then?

Laura said I just sent it to you. It was included.

Meeks said oh, was it in word? Okay.

Mike said we can make these modifications and then act on it at our next meeting, which, it would be in place for your November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kay Gordon said okay, that would be great? Any other questions?

Mike said and your reason for the 5 years is you get a 5-year grant?



Kay Gordon said we get a 5-year grant and we do have the funding in our start-up funding that we received to do that this year, or at this time.

Mike said so if we made a 3-year lease, it would affect your grant would it?

Kay Gordon said it would affect our ability to use one pool of money now, and then to cover other expenses with our grant.

Mike said okay. We'll table that until the, what would that be?

Laura said 21<sup>st</sup>.

Meeks said two weeks from today.

Kay Gordon said alright. Thank you so much.

Mike said thank you, Kay.

**Brad Dilger, EDPR - Riverstart Solar 4, Road Safety**

Mike said Brad Dilger, EDPR, Riverstart Solar 4 and, is that and road safety or?

Brad Dilger said yes sir.

Mike said okay.

Brad Dilger said morning commissioners. Laura may have already provided these.

Laura said yeah, mine are just small copies. They might want yours.

Brad Dilger said so these are larger versions, color versions of what you were sent last week, and also, I added just some examples of some signage that we're thinking about.

Mike said Jay, you want to come up here and be part of this?

Brad Dilger said so, a couple weeks ago, as construction is ramping up after our end of July sort of construction date, noticed that traffic has increased obviously, in the RUA area. We had a meeting with the construction teams, with Jay and the sheriff a couple weeks ago, week and a half ago, just discussing what the plan could be for controlling speed down there, because there are construction vehicles, there're still all the, you know, the homeowners, landowners that live out there and people traveling you know north to south, across the county. So, signage is the most obvious way to alert people things are going on out there. So, standard construction signs, construction ahead, there, you know, the option of an advisory limit, which is like the yellow-type sign and then the actual speed limit sign. Currently, there aren't any posted limits out there so it's the assumed 55 mile an hour, which is generally thought to be unsafe out there with increased construction traffic.

Mike said we didn't have to worry about that when the company tore up all the roads and then put gravel down to start construction. Everybody slowed down because of the gravel.

Brad Dilger said right.

Mike said I understand the new way of doing that.

Brad Dilger said yeah, no gravel this time around. So, what we are here today is just looking for some guidance from the commissioners on a speed control method. As I understand it, it's in a posted limit would be out there, it would need to come from a change to the ordinance. So, simple method would be just the construction and the advisory limits, but those aren't really enforceable. And then asking you know, if the sealing is a speed limit, like a temporary speed limit over the next, we'd be done by the end of next calendar year, so 14 months or so, and then revised to go back to a non-posted limit.

Mike said and our map show the approved RUA route.

Brad Dilger said yes sir.

Mike said do you have a consideration of where you're going to put the signs?

Brad Dilger said the blue dot, as indicted.

Mike said blue dots are where the signs are going to go:

Brad Dilger said correct. And that came from advice from the sheriff to catch anybody turning from one direction to another so, basically, at all those intersections and then leading into the project area from, coming from State Road 1, so a westerly direction from 1.

Gary Friend said I don't have any problem at all.

Mike said I think it's a good idea. I just, the question is, is it an advisory 35 or a speed limit 35? Is the sheriff here? Do they pay attention to advisories? I do.

Art Moystner said I would say some yes, some no.

Mike said matter fact, I'll you how ignorant I was. I've always thought when it said 35, even though it was yellow, it was the speed limit. I got in an argument with my son out here by the cemetery where advisory 20, and I told him that's the speed limit, and he said no it's not. I was wrong. He was right. But I slow down for the advisory.

Gary Friend said I do too, especially the yellow ones.

Mike said what do you recommend?

Art Moystner said well what I shared with them when we had our meeting was my concern is 1100 West obviously, that's a road that's travelled frequently in our county, which connects 36 and 32 together, my concern was also 4 South and 5 South entering and exiting from State Road 1, because there are some hills there, that really affect person's vision pulling out onto the highway or when you're turning off. So, I would share with the East West roads, I think informational would be fine, there're some stop signs to slow them down in between your county roads, but when you talk about 9 West, 11 West, you might want to reduce speeds in that area for those few miles.

Brad Dilger said and regarding the state road, we'll be contacting the state, INDOT for getting permission to put signage out there, but that's, as I understand it, outside of county purview along the state road.

Gary Friend said I kind of read into Mike's question that if it's not a speed limit, it's just an advisory, they follow it or they don't follow it. But if it's a speed limit, nobody's out there to enforce it, they follow it or they don't follow it.

Brad Dilger said correct.

Mike said are you recommending advisory on the East West roads or no signs at all, speed limit?

Brad Dilger said I think the East West roads, I would put advisory signs.

Mike said East West roads, we do advisory 35 and the North South you'd say speed limit 35?

Brad Dilger said correct.

Gary Friend said wouldn't we have to write an ordinance for advisory?

Meeks said I would say probably, my opinion is, if you're going to do the ordinance.

Brad Dilger said do them all?

Meeks said just do it all. Yeah, you're going to do an ordinance anyway.

Gary Friend said can we have the signs colored though, because I like the color more to get the attention.

Meeks said well, no.

Art Moystner said you have to abide by statute.

Meeks said no, you cannot. So, specifically, anything in this dark green is what you want?

Brad Dilger said the dark green is the RUA, so that's where we are restricting construction traffic to.

Meeks said well my recommendation then, if you're going to put the 35, is just go from each like you only have half way on 900, just do the one mile from 4 to 5 because you're not going to have signage out there. You have to have the signage with you first start the 35 and if you're going to put it on each of the intersections, it's just going to be those one-mile blocks.

Mike said so you would stop at 300?

Meeks said you have to have the 35 right when you do it.

Gary Friend said it's 35, right? It's 35, just going to be north? I mean, you got 35, 40, 45, it's just 40 more, more conducive people saying I'll slow up a little, up 35, I don't know if.

Meeks said we had this, I mean this came up with, what was the other project?

Brad Dilger said from my, it was before I was at EDP, but it was with Headwaters I believe.

Meeks said it was Headwaters and it needed to be 35. I mean, we've had this, this is not our first rodeo.

Art Moystner said we did the 3 West, 4 West area, 7 South, 6 South. We had altered speed limits there when that was originally done.

Meeks said and we should have, yeah, that's something we found out, going through this process.

Mike said well you'd still want 35 on 300 between 11 and 1000, wouldn't you? Signage there, because that would be going by the sub-station. I assume you'd want signage on that road as well.

Meeks said well we'll have it from 1000 to 1100, yeah.

Mike said on 300.

Meeks said on 300, yeah, anything in the green, the dark green.

Mike said so you've heard the recommendation from the sheriff. Thanks, Art. And the request and the recommendation from our attorney to keep it simple and just make it all speed limit signs.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we do that and pass an ordinance.

Meeks said when does the construction begin?

Brad Dilger said construction began essentially.

Meeks said began, okay.

Brad Dilger said it's already began.

Meeks said so, we want it now, okay.

Brad Dilger said yeah, they started in the, they started in the southwest corner and they're working their way in a northeast direction.

Meeks said and it'll be temporary. You want it throughout the next year?

Brad Dilger said I think end of next calendar year end in 2025.

Meeks said okay. December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Mike said have a motion. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton said so what are our dates then?

Meeks said from 45 days from after you pass it.

Gary Girton said I know but.

Meeks said until the end of the year.

Gary Girton said that's based on today.

Gary Friend said and the next year.

Meeks said and the next year.

Gary Girton said alright. I'll second it.

Mike said have a motion and a second to provide a temporary speed limit ordinance for the approved road plan of the Riverstart Solar Park IV, at 35 mile per hour. All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said I suppose the yellow caution sign will still be with the 35 mile an hour won't it?

Meeks said should not be. It should be just the white speed limit sign.

Gary Friend said for just construction.

Brad Dilger said yeah, yep. Correct.

Gary Friend said that will still be there.

Brad Dilger said to modify that ordinance, do we need to have the additional readings or are we good to proceed with putting up signage?

Mike said well we have to pass it with three readings, because it's an actual ordinance.

Meeks said to be able to enforce the speed limit, we have to have three passings, has to be published and then they can't write a ticket for 45 days after it's published. But you can have the signs out. It's still the speed limit. We just, you cannot enforce it.

Brad Dilger said alright. That makes sense.

Gary Friend said write a ticket, but it could come in effect December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeks said it's going to be later than that. You're not going to get it published.

Brad Dilger said I just wanted to make sure that we were okay to put out signs, but it sounds like signs can.

Meeks said after they pass it, two weeks you can start putting out the signs.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Gary Friend said construction signs can go up then.

Brad Dilger sure and then we'll add the speed limit then.

Mike said okay. Anything else?

Brad Dilger said I guess just a quick update on Riverstart III. I know it wasn't on the agenda, but things are starting to really wind down over there and lay down yards. Just south of 600, you know, we'll be vacating that, handing it back over to the landowner, end of this month, early November. And so, that'll be winding down construction activities there. That's it.

Mike said very good. Okay. Thank you.

**Mary Solada and Ben Vollmer, Dentons - IN68 Solar Project**

Mike said Mary Solada and Ben Vollmer. Indiana 68 Solar Project. Morning Mary.

Mary Solada said good morning. Good to see everybody, commissioners, Laura, Meeks. We're going to pull up another chair here. So, thank you for putting us on your agenda. My name, just for the record, is Mary Solada. I'm based in Indianapolis. I've worked with a number of renewable companies around the state, including this area. So, I want to introduce to you, Ben, because Ben is with a company called Saunders Energy, which is a development partner of a

company called AES Clean Energy, which has about 500 renewable projects all over the country under pre-development and development. So, AES is a, you know, it's a big deal. It's done a number of presentations like this all over the country, and would like to have Ben kind of walk you through the size of the project. Well, first of all, this is Wayne Township and it's near the town of.

Ben Vollmer said Union City.

Mary Solada said Union City, which I don't know, is that, Meeks, is that technically a town?

Meeks said Union City is a town. It's a city. Well, it's a class 3 city.

Mary Solada said do you know if it has zoning jurisdiction?

Meeks said the county has zoning, would be county zoning. We have a unified zoning code.

Mary Solada said that's what I thought, but I thought I'd ask while we're here. So, we're talking about, we think what, 8 hundred and some acres down at, within the fence line?

Ben Vollmer said that's right.

Mary Solada said so what we did not want to do is spend or take your time, our time and that of the county council to move forward with further discussion of this project if it's not something, then again, we'll talk about the project, but is not of interest to the commissioners in allowing through all the processes that you and Meeks have worked on over the years of contracts and abatements, permitting for another solar project in this part of the county. So, kind of wanted just to present that information to you today so you could be thinking about it.

Ben Vollmer said yeah, great. Thanks Mary, and thank you all for your time this morning, your consideration. My name is Ben Vollmer. I'm the project developer for this project. On your agenda there it says Indiana 68, which is not the most charming name. We've changed the name to South Salem Solar.

Mike said that's got a nice ring to it.

Ben Vollmer said yeah. So, I'm here on behalf of AES who will be the long-term owner and operator of this project. And as Mary stated, AES is one of the biggest independent power producers in the country. They've got 540 operating projects representing about 5.1 gigawatts of power. So, it's a big company that knows how to execute on big projects like this. Just one point here, AES Clean Energy is a separate entity from AES Indiana, the utility in the state. They have the same parent company, which is the AES Corporation. But, I just wanted to clarify that we're here on behalf of AES Clean Energy and not AES Indiana. Now a little about the project, South Salem Solar, it is a 150-megawatt project located in Wayne Township, south of 32 and west of 227, right along South Boundary Pike. We are optioning approximately 1200 acres but, as Mary said, will likely build on fewer than 800 when accounting for drainage, flow lines, ditches, setbacks, areas that we would not build in. We're optioning the land from one family and then

we have an easement in place and an option to purchase land for a sub-station that we can connect to the existing transmission line, high voltage, and deliver that power to the grid. The project represents an investment of approximately \$204,000,000.00. We anticipate starting construction in early 2028 and finishing toward the end of 2029. Though that date could move up as I think you all may be aware there has been significant delays in the utility study process, so pinpointing the exact timing, especially on an earlier staged project, can be difficult. And with that, as Mary said, you know, we're here to just request the county's willingness to engage on an Economic Development agreement and road use agreement and the decommissioning plan.

Mary Solada said yep. And we're very close to having our own internal property tax modeling of this project that we would then like to share with Baker Tilly. We of course, know that we need to cover their fees and that of your wise legal counsel. So, we really just kind of want to get out of the gate on this, but want to be subject to, of course, your concerns and requests of us.

Mike said well we've been receptive to about every other solar wind alternative energy project that's visited the county, and, as you well know, Mary, at one point, so, it's probably easy for me to say that go ahead and do it. But I'm only sitting here for another two or three months, so, and I, the other commissioners, one other commissioner I know of, is, he's been in support of the projects as well, but I can't speak for him. So, I don't know what you're thinking, Gary?

Gary Friend said I don't think it's any different than other opportunities. This is, I mean we have ordinances, involve ordinances, you set forth, get the abatements correct that we can live with. With county council and commissioner's in agreement, it's no different than EDPR as far as I'm concerned.

Mike said I never felt like I would want to get into the picking and choosing of landowners.

Mary Solada said okay. Well, do we want to touch for a moment, so, commissioner, you are going out of office at the end of this calendar year, is that correct? And there are two new commissioners coming in, or one new?

Mike said Gary Girton is going off with me.

Mary Solada said you've served for many years I know. So, thank you for that. So, I think in a perfect world, we would love to move this forward this year with a counsel in terms of abatement resolutions and quickly get contract stuff maybe for December action of the commissioners, but don't know how you gentlemen feel about that?

Mike said well, I guess my recommendation would be, and maybe you are on the agenda tomorrow, to appear before council tomorrow.

Mary Solada said we're not on the agenda.

Mike said two of the, two of the council members are running for commissioner, that this would be, they're both going to be elected, I think one is unopposed, the other is opposed. So, I'm not



sure where that stands, but that would give you a feel for the, and there is going to be a new council. So, I don't know, what do you think about finishing before the end of the year?

Gary Friend said I don't see any reason to delay any natural progress of the project no matter who's here so, I think it's wise to go to council tomorrow.

Mike said if you can.

Gary Friend said if you can.

Mary Solada said yeah. We were thinking of appearing at the November meeting, but if we could get, Laura, could we get on the council agenda tomorrow?

Laura said yes, I'll add you.

Mary Solada said perfect. I mean, what time is that in?

Laura said 9:00 o'clock.

Mike said they're not near as long as ours.

Mary Solada said okay.

Mike said I think from this board, as Gary said, we've been supportive of the projects that have been presented, and there's no reason why we wouldn't be supportive of this project as it's presented if it meets the standard zoning ordinance.

Meeks said so, that's a pretty tight time frame, right, because if we're going to have the public hearing for the council, that would probably be December.

Mike said that's a faster time line then what we've been used to.

Meeks said but we've done it before.

Mike said not that quick.

Mary Solada said well I think maybe try to have some action steps in this calendar year, you know, where maybe we could have a preliminary abatement resolution and be working on contracts with Meeks and the council.

Meeks said it seems to be our, it, would, seems to take the longest, right, is that financial analyses.

Mary Solada said yes.

Meeks said so once you can get us the numbers, we can get it over to Jason as soon as we can and have them, you know, crunch those numbers. That seems to me to be, we've done a lot of these agreements, so I kind of know what we have in these. So, those aren't the tripping points anymore.

Mary Solada said yep, but we have an internal called Wednesday to finalize our numbers to get over, do we get them to you?

Meeks said give them to me and then I'll talk to Jason.

Mary Solada said perfect. Okay, sounds good.

Mike said can I ask who the Dentons are?

Mary Solada said who we are? Well we used to be many years ago, Bingham Summers Wilson Spillman. And then you might remember Matt Welsh governor back in the 60s, and then over the years we've had various mergers, like a lot of companies and so now we are Dentons Bingham Greenebaum. So, the Bingham name is still there.

Mike said that's your firm?

Mary Solada said yeah.

Mike said okay.

Meeks said and I think Jeff, at your firm, is he still there? He did a project.

Mary Solada said oh, Jeff Bennett?

Meeks said yeah. He did a project, I think it was at Jay, I think it was with Jay County, Randolph There was another one. Yeah, there was two. It might have been the one over in Delaware County. I do know that. So, they've done two.

Mike said okay.

Mary Solada said. Okay, thank you. And Commissioner Girton, any other thoughts before we leave you today?

Gary Girton said no, I'm like the rest of them. I'm not opposed and certainly not going to get into picking and choosing who's going to come in here and do projects because, as long as you're following our requirements, and we did spend a considerable amount of time developing those ordinances and plans and programs for the solar, and then, as long as you're going to abide by those, I don't have any objections at all, and willing to come up with the plans for the road agreement and decommission and economic develop programs, which you're all aware of how they work, so, those and your many other programs, which is not something new to you, but I have no problems with that going.

Mary Solada said thank you. Well, that's our plan. So, we appreciate the opportunity to get busy on it and then we would see the commissioners sometime, whether it's late this year or early next. Thank you very much.

Ben Vollmer said yeah, thank you very much.

**Mayor Bob McCoy - update**

Mike said Mayor Bob McCoy. Do you have anything for us this morning?

Bob McCoy said Greenville Avenue, the plan is to mill on the 15<sup>th</sup> and pave on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, weather pending. But that will pretty much complete that project other than striping. So, we are going to do some striping so people will actually know where to turn on to Ludy and not run over them rocks there after we added another so many feet to that area so you can turn. Franklin Street, we've started down to the west before the Mardi Gras. We will continue moving our way up towards town along the side of Brody's building, the Attic Window. Also working on North street right now. They're currently removing trees and then we'll start doing sidewalks. I don't know that we'll get that paved this year due to the timeframe. And then Winchester Speedway this weekend, starting Thursday kind of kick off the whole 400-weekend by having some race cars up here on the square from 12 to 2:30. I don't know all the details on that. Hopefully, I'll get that all finished up today and kind of a better idea of where. But, I think we're probably just going to keep them on 32 for the most part. That way, we're not disrupting downtown again, for the second week since we just had Mardi Gras. But, hopefully, promote the race and get more people involved, and beautiful weather coming up, so, let's just cross our fingers.

Mike said okay. Any questions of Bob?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said okay. Thanks Bob.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

**Quote for drone**

Mike said Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff. Morning again, Art.

Art Moystner said I had the, I'd sent you guys an email. One of the things we'd talked about with ARPA funding, I kind of put together a wish list, and we looked at a couple of different things. I recently got a quote for a drone. A few weeks ago, we had two separate incidents to where we had drones come out. One of them we were able to get on scene pretty rapidly. We were able to locate a suspect that had fled from Muncie and were able to take that individual into custody. With the assistance of the drone, it worked out quite well. We had another incident where the suspects had fled. It took us a little over an hour to get drones on site. By the time we were there we were unable to locate any of the suspects. I think that's one of the things that would be beneficial to have more readily available to us to where we could get drones, probably

get two or three, maybe four of the staff that are certified to fly those, and be able to use those locally. The one they had, it was, the technology is amazing to me where we came from with the drones, because the one we're looking at actually has thermal image on it. One of the scenes, to explain to you how good these are, one of the scenes, they had a side-by-side view with thermal and normal view of the camera and were able to zoom in on a hot spot that they'd found in a woods, and you could actually see the deer laying in the woods and see exactly what it was doing. So, the technology is just amazing to me. I think it would be very beneficial for our agency to have this drone.

Mike said I see two years of general maintenance service on here. Is that the warranty?

Art Moystner said yes.

Mike said and can you insure these drones?

Art Moystner said I can look into that.

Mike said I mean, I imagine myself running one and probably wreck it, so, just wondering.

Art Moystner said they have some technology that senses objects around you so that you get the avoidance of flying into things normally. But, yes.

Mike said my wife wants me to get one of those automatic breaking cars. You've heard the request from the sheriff. It sounds like it's something that would be beneficial to the department.

Gary Friend said I mean, I agree with that.

Mike said not necessarily a necessary thing for the department, but a nice thing to have.

Art Moystner said and there're multiple uses. I mean, I'd explained we had used it on suspects, we've had other agencies, I've had Delaware County Emergency Management come over and actually fly crash scenes for fatal crashes and due to reconstruction based off of those flights. So, there's, I think there're a lot of things we could actually use this for.

Gary Friend said I think the need for a drone would be, I think better validated, not that we wouldn't buy it out of ARPA, then it becomes part of your budget. It doesn't become part of your budget an ongoing need for a drone, if you don't need it for that, it's just because we have ARPA funds. I want to get out of that thought, because we have funds, we want a drone. If we didn't have funds, would Randolph County look for a drone, would you go to the council for a drone?

Art Moystner said would I, yes.

Gary Friend said put it in your budget?

Art Moystner said yes, I would try to get one.

Gary Friend said that validates to me that if we should, we have enough to get it, we can get it. But it ought to be in the on line operational budget of the sheriff's department.

Art Moystner said and I don't disagree. And I think once it's purchased, it's not an ongoing cost every year.

Gary Friend said but it won't last forever, I mean.

Art Moystner said correct. When they need another one, they'll need to budget it.

Gary Friend said well if they wreck it. I mean, they wreck.

Art Moystner said they do.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said you might need two.

Art Moystner said and I think the prices came down. When we first started looking at this, these, this specific drone was a 25 or \$30,000.00 drone.

Gary Friend said my second part of this, not just as simple, maybe law enforcement has different rules.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said for a drone, you've got to follow some FCC?

Art Moystner said you do. I'm going to look into the certification process.

Gary Friend said second part is, is we were part of getting money to Monroe Central to have a drone school.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said and I was wondering, I don't know if, do you know, Mike, are they still doing that out there?

Mike said I don't know.

Gary Friend said if they are, they ought to be conducive to allowing our officers to train.

Mike said training business. I think that was part of the Ag business. But I don't know if they're doing drones.

Gary Friend said three or four years ago it was drones specific.

Art Moystner said yes, and we'll reach out to them.

Gary Friend said so, my thought is, I don't mind getting a drone out of ARPA as long as it's something that we're going to continue in Randolph County. If we were to not, if you would have said no, it's just because we have money, I'd say well it's just a toy.

Art Moystner said no, I think it's something that they do need to continue. Whether it will continue, I can't answer because I think this one will get me past my two years.

Gary Friend said this still should be in your budget no matter what.

Art Moystner said I agree.

Gary Friend said okay.

Mike said any thoughts, Gary?

Gary Girton said no, I think it's a good idea. I think the Extension Service has schooling capability there too.

Art Moystner said they do. They've already been in touch with that person.

Gary Girton said I know they've been training for a year or two.

Mike said so, someone want to?

Gary Friend said yeah, I'll make a motion that we make this purchase out of ARPA.

Mike said I have a motion to purchase the drone for the sheriff's department in the amount of \$13,383.99 from ARPA funds. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said okay. Anything else for us this morning, Art?

Art Moystner said I don't have anything this morning.

Mike said okay. Anybody have any questions of Art?

Gary Friend said I do not.

**Payroll Claims \$318,393.70**

**Regular Claims \$1,506,254.39**

**Your Life Speaks Claim \$8,000.00**

**Art Association of Randolph County Claim \$6,000.00**

**Butler Fairman & Seufert Vision Trail Claim \$3,290.00**

**SJCA Claim \$8,550.00**

**Baker Tilly Claim \$5,775.00**

Mike said we've got payroll claims, regular claims, Your Life Speaks claim, Art Association EDIT claim, the Butler Fairman & Seufert Vision Trail claim, the SJCA claim and the Baker Tilly claim all presented to us this morning. And I didn't know what the attitude would be about the commissioners approving all those claims in one motion?

Gary Friend said I would make that motion. I've reviewed all the claims. They're ordinary business we normally address. I'll make a motion that we approve all these claims at once.

Mike said do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Speed limit Ordinance 2024-18 (second reading)**

Mike said then the next item is a speed limit ordinance 2024-18. This is for a second reading. If you recall this is reducing the speed limits where Martin Street in the city of Winchester ends at the County line out to Stockyard Road from the what would be 55 mile an hour, to a 30 mile per hour speed limit by making it a class C infraction to speed there. I'd entertain a motion to pass ordinance number 2024-18, an ordinance amending the chapter 71, schedule 1 on speed limits of Randolph County by title only.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-18**

**An Ordinance for the County Commissioners of Randolph County Indiana**

**Amending Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits**

BE IT ORDAINED that the Randolph County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits is hereby amended by adding the following to subsection I:

<b><i>Street/Road</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Speed Limit</i></b>	<b><i>Penalty</i></b>	<b><i>Ord. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Date Passed</i></b>
Martin Street	From the Winchester City Limits to Stockyard Road	30 mph	Class C Infraction		

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the above speed limits shall commence upon the passage and due publication of this Ordinance.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Girton said I move we suspend the rules and have the third and final reading of ordinance 2024-18 by title only.

Mike said I have a motion to suspend the rules by passing and adopting this ordinance this morning by title only. Do I have a second?

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said and I entertain a motion to pass ordinance number 2024-18, an ordinance for county commissioners of Randolph County Indiana to amend chapter 71, schedule 1, speed limits.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said the ordinance is hereby adopted and passed and cannot be enforced for 45 days after publication.

#### **EDIT Plan**

Mike said next item is the EDIT plan. I think we tabled just in case there was another change to it.

Laura said yeah, on the Achieva.

Mike said so, we've not changed anything to the EDIT plan, so we don't need to take any action there.

Meeks said you don't have to take action, you need to still approve it.

Mike said I thought we approved it. We just weren't going to establish a meeting.

Meeks said I think you need it signed.

Mike said well I'd say we table it again.

Meeks said okay.

Mike said just in case.

#### **Handbook Memorandum update**

Mike said next item is a handbook memorandum update.



Laura said Gary, I'll let you take the lead on this.

Gary Friend said the discussion at the very beginning was that 8 hours becomes a standard day of Randolph County employees. And I don't recall that going away. We were going to have Irwin make sure that we do the paid lunches correctly because there's some thought that the 35 hours employees are going to be 7 hours and clock out for lunch. If that's the case, if that's the route that we were to take that we have paid lunches, we have to address otherwise in Randolph County, for those who are not emergency services who are being paid lunches. So, then when we did the salary ordinance, part of the study committee, we were looking at leveling up people from department to department because everybody in Randolph County would be 8 hours as a standard work day, which then affects the PTO, the vacation hours and how to do all of that. So, it's my understanding that that's where we're going. And Laura thought maybe this is not what was being considered now. So, I would like to know how you guys feel about that thought in this whole plan as we were going through. And Irwin was going to give us guidance on how to follow through.

Meeks said right. I think we just need to sent that to Irwin after you approve it.

Gary Friend said well I would like to entertain that we stay on the original script of Randolph County employees with 8 hours standard and all benefits are according to that 40-hour work week.

Laura said and my issue here is that whatever is determined needs to be determined because, at this point, there's no guarantee that my vendors could get the programs updated to match what we want to do unless we get this to them immediately, by January 1. Otherwise, I can't guarantee it'll happen. I was going to send them the other memo you guys approved and then Gary through a wrench in that, sorry.

Gary Friend said that's fine. The reason this wasn't particularly put in there at this time is Irwin hasn't given us the guidance on how to do it.

Laura said and my understanding, and other salary committee members' understanding was that we weren't going to do that this year, the 8-hour thing. At that last meeting.

Meeks said I think that's, yes, I think that would be right.

Laura said that's the one thing we struck from the list.

Gary Friend said that was not the salary committee. That was the handbook committee.

Laura said no, that was the salary study.

Gary Friend said I wasn't involved in that because I was part of the salary study and I've never changed my mind on that. And I still haven't.

Laura said that was the meeting that all the employees were here and they stood up, remember? He wasn't here.

Gary Friend said that was a discussion meeting of pros and cons.

Laura said okay. So, I don't care how you go with it, I just need to know.

Gary Friend said actually, Laura, in that meeting, Irwin guaranteed us basically, that they could get it written where we could have 40 hours with a paid lunch, because, if we don't, if we do that, let's just say we go back, I'll reiterate it. If we say we're going to leave the courthouse, or not the courthouse, it's 35-hour employees, without a paid lunch, maybe the salary stands as it was presented, maybe it doesn't, with council, but we have other employees then who are now are not in compliance because they're getting a paid lunch on their 8-hour shift. So, to say you can't do it here, you can do it there, doesn't work.

Meeks said well the problem with the paid lunch is, if I don't clock out, I have to clock out when I leave this building, I can get in a car wreck, anything can happen. I'd have to clock out.

Gary Friend said that was in discussion, yes.

Meeks said and then I thought the council voted not to the benefit of the paid lunch, we weren't going to do that this year.

Gary Friend said I don't know that.

Laura said that was my understanding too.

Meeks said that's 1000% what the council decided. And I'm not sure if you were there or not. I specifically remember that. The problem with the paid, and we talked about this extensively at the handbook committee, Gary was there, that you can't, if I, if you have three people in your office, and you said Gary, you have to work lunch, okay.

Gary Friend said uh huh.

Meeks said and we have to then pay you, not only are you getting paid lunch, you get paid twice, because I can't give the other two a benefit of the paid lunch and the time off to make you work. Just doesn't work like that. I mean, we will get sued, because you're not treating me fairly, you're making me work. You're not making Gary work.

Gary Friend said then how do we square it up with the rest of the county that's doing it?

Meeks said we don't.

Gary Friend said we don't. We have to correct that.

Meeks said well 35 hours, either you up the pay or you do it some other way, other than what's in the paid lunch.

Gary Friend said I'm okay with that as long as we square it up with the rest of the county who have employees.

Meeks said well that would be a, then you up the pay or you do something, I don't know. But we couldn't do it with a paid lunch because of those situations. Isn't that what we talked about Laura? You were there.

Laura said that was my understanding, but Gary didn't understand it that way.

Gary Friend said well I wasn't there.

Meeks said well, you weren't there. But I think the council decided not to do it. I know the council decided not to do it.

Gary Friend said okay. But I wasn't there either.

Meeks said I do know that when we talked about it, it would be what you would have to do, is instead of doing a paid lunch, you would have to say after every 7 hours, you get an added benefit of we're going to pay you one hour. So, you can do that. That's just a benefit.

Gary Friend said right.

Meeks said and so, you're getting your paid lunch, right?

Gary Friend said right but that's what Irwin was discussing.

Meeks said yeah, so, but we can't say paid lunch because if I have to work that lunch, I'm going to get overtime, I'm going to get something else and that 7 hours.

Gary Friend said and what do we do with the people that's doing it now? That's my whole premise of the whole thing, is the level everybody out.

Meeks said it's going to be overtime and it's going to be, we're not doing comp time anymore, so they're going to get overtime. They're going to get, well you don't get overtime until after 40 hours.

Gary Friend said peoples taking a lunch during their 8-hour paid shift and working 7 hours and getting 1 off paid, same thing. It's just a different way to reiterate it. So, I guess I don't have a problem if we all decide the decision is to go that way, but it's got to be uniform across the county. If you're not emergency services, you're not getting a paid lunch or everybody gets a paid lunch. That's my thought.

Mike said so, what are we, what is the issue we're being asked to decide in the next 5 minutes until we take our recess?

Meeks said well I think it's longer than a 5-minute conversation Mike, so, maybe we take our recess and come back to this.

Mike said how does this memo differ from this one?

Laura said the only thing different on this memo and I don't know if you want to change it, I'm just saying if we don't get this to my vendors, I don't know, but, the only difference here is the PTO, Gary wants everybody to have an 8-hour day, so that would make it 6 hours per month for everybody instead of the .75 of the day that they work now. It's only on the PTO. It doesn't change anything on the vacation, anything on the holidays.

Gary Friend said but you got, then you've got the ambulance department works 24-hour shifts, is their PTO now  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a 24-hour day?

Laura said no.

Mike said you can't do that.

Laura said they're not.

Gary Friend said that's why we've got to

Mike said that I understand.

Meeks said that I understand.

Laura said the only thing I've changed on this memo is making it from instead of .75, I made it 6 hours for everybody.

Mike said 6 hours per month.

Gary Friend said and that's because the courthouse would be on 7 hours instead of 8, so .75 times 7 hours is a different number than.

Meeks said but you didn't talk about the paid time, just the paid lunch on that.

Laura said not on that.

Mike said I guess it confuses me that we talk about 6 hours per month and now we're going to make carry over maximum 63 days.

Laura said which is yeah, so.

Meeks said and they'll define that in the handbook.

Laura said so right now we're at.

Mike said but my day is longer than, so.

Meeks said we'll they'll have to define that.

Laura said I changed that to 504 hours.

Meeks said they'll define that in the handbook. I'm not worried about that part. That's why we need a document.

Laura said so, we're not going to act on this, so, I'm just saying that I don't know that I could get this done because we should have had it to them.

Mike said they can figure it out after drainage board.

Meeks said yeah, we have all day.

Gary Friend said Solid Waste comes in there too.

Meeks said yeah, Solid Waste can wait.

Mike said so do we want to go back to the handbook discussion?

Meeks said well I think we send it to them. They're going to have to define what a day is. In that handbook there will be a definition that we get from Irwin and it will say 7 or 8 hours or whatever, and we go with theirs. That's why we're hiring them. That's why we're using them.

Gary Friend said we've got to let them do their work.

Meeks said yeah.

Mike said so, Laura has changed the memorandum that has change it from .75 days per month to 6 hours per month.

Laura said so 63 days times an 8-hour day is 504 hours. And our systems are set up per hours, not per days.

Meeks said and that works out 6 hours.

Mike said an employee may carry over a maximum of 504 hours PTO from one calendar year to the next.

Meeks said how did you get that?

Laura said I took 63 days times an 8-hour day, which is what Gary wants it to be.

Meeks said that makes sense.

Mike said this is a revised memo. Do we want to approve this revised memo and sign it this morning?

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said that's the only change that was made and the previous memo was signed. It doesn't reflect anything regarding paid or unpaid lunches.

Gary Friend said yeah. I'll make a motion on that. I'll make a motion.

Mike said have a motion. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Comp time report**

Mike said comp time report. We received a copy of that and I'm guessing that it's in dollars so none of that has been paid out yet, have they?

Laura said no, it has not. It's just keeping you up-to-date as to where we're at.

Gary Friend said it was up slightly.

Mike said any questions, Gary?

Gary Girton said no.

#### **Health Department Vehicle Registration**

Mike said next item is Health Department vehicle registration. This just need our signature?

Laura said yes.

Mike said okay. Do I need permission to sign this?

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion give the president permission to sign.

Mike said a motion for me to sign the Health Department's vehicle registration. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Electronic Map Data application renewal**

Mike said okay. Electronic map data application renewal. This is for a company called Comcate which is going to populate GIS data for the city of Union City and their code enforcement tracking system.

Laura said and a renewal and no fee.

Mike said a renewal for no fee because they're helping Union City. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made motion to approve.

Gary Friend said I'll second it. Can you explain it just briefly why Union City, I mean, why isn't that not just countywide?

Mike said basically excluding anybody that's doing services for a municipality or government agency in our county.

Meeks said you just have to charge them.

Mike said it's a \$1,200.00 fee if you want to go and get this information.

Gary Friend said this is a municipality.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Attendance APC and BZA**

Mike said we have received a copy via email the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter attendance for the Area Plan Commission and the BZA. Any questions or comments about that? Hearing none, we'll move on.

<b><u>Transfer</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>
\$480,000.00	Headwater's 1	CCMG 2024-1 Bridge 304

Mike said we have a transfer, \$480,000.00 from Headwaters 1 fund to the Community Crossings Matching Grant for bridge 304. I'd entertain a motion to approve this transfer.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Additional Appropriations:**

<b>Bridge 304</b>	\$480,000.00
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Mike said and we have additional appropriations. We have an additional appropriation for bridge 304 in the amount of \$480,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve that additional appropriation.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Building Commission – Contractual work** \$10,000.00

Mike said the next item is for the Building Commission. This is for contractual work in the absence of our building commissioner, and we have a contract outstanding asking for additional appropriation of \$10,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Sheriff – K9** \$1,000.00

**Sheriff – Repair Vehicles** \$20,000.00

Mike said next two are for the sheriff. One I for the K9 in the amount of \$1,000.00 and the other is for the repair of the sheriff's vehicles in the amount of \$20,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**EDIT – Art Association** \$6,000.00

Mike said the next one is an EDIT appropriation for the Art Association of Randolph County in the amount of \$6,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve that additional appropriation.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**LIT Special purpose – Professional Svcs.** \$5,000.00

Mike said next item is for professional services. This is to pay Baker Tilly advisors \$5,000.00 for their financial review that they did for the county. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Tourism – Contractual Svcs.** \$10,000.00

Mike said next item is the creation of a new line for the Tourism office. This is for contractual services for \$10,000.00 to be taken out of the Tourism fund. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.



Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Opioid Unrestricted – Your Life Speaks** \$8,000.00

Mike said the final additional appropriation is an appropriation from the Opioid Unrestricted funds. This is for the program for the high school students of the 5 school corporations in Randolph County. They're bring a speaker to the county in the amount of \$8,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Laura, do you have anything for us this morning?

**Laura – ARPA fund and Comp time payout**

Laura said just a couple quick things. The ARPA funding needs to be finished appropriated by December the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mike said how much do we have left to appropriate?

Laura said well it's going to be the \$1,199,371.50 minus what you approved for the sheriff today.

Mike said a little over a million bucks.

Laura said it has to be appropriated.

Gary Friend said yeah, get the coroner's more coming up next in there also, because it looked like we're going to be taking the remainder of the funds and applying to the jail project. There had been some discussion.

Mike said what was the other, what did you say, the coroner?

Gary Friend said the project for the buildout when the ambulance moves two ambulances.

Mike said okay, the coroner's project. Do we have an estimate on that?

Gary Friend said last estimate I have is around 40,000, but I'll get ahold of Darrin and get it firmed up.

Laura said that was just a reminder. And then the other thing is do we want to see if it would be okay to do, my office wants to see if it would be okay to do a 1 appropriation, additional appropriation out of General to pay out the comp time. You guys have a line in your budget for overtime comp pay out. We would like to do one appropriation for, I gave you the comp time report, that's not the pay out yet, but when we get to that point, we need to have the additional

ready to be able to pay that out. So, we're thinking around, we'll watch it until next month, but \$150,000 maybe into that line to do that pay out just from one line instead of breaking it up for department.

Gary Friend and we'll take it out of General fund?

Laura said yes.

Mike said that makes sense to me.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Laura said okay. We just wanted to make sure that was okay if we do that additional that way and present it when that time comes.

**Meeks – Building Inspector contract, sewer ordinance**

Mike said Meeks, do you have anything for us?

Meeks said Keith Pugh signed an agreement but then he didn't sign the one you signed, so if you would resign this one, Mike, and I'll get it to Keith and I'll get you a copy Laura.

Laura said okay thank you.

Meeks said and the only other thing I've already mentioned that I haven't heard anything about the sewer ordinance recently. And I'll reach out and see what's going on there.

Mike said okay. Gary Friend, do you have anything for us?

Gary Friend said I do not. Thank you.

Mike said Gary Girton, do you have anything for us?

Gary Girton said no.

**Mike Wickersham – DNR transfer of 7 rights-of-way to the county, JRDS grant repayment**

Mike said I have a couple things. I got wind that the DNR has 7 right-of-way, railroad right-of-way ownerships in Randolph County. And they would like to transfer them. So, I talked to the DNR and said who I was and that I didn't have the authority, but I would like to present to the county that we accept transfers of those. So, the county would take ownership of the 7 right-of-way locations, which aren't very much. But I think if we had that opportunity, we should take advantage of it and if somebody needs that ownership at a later time, we could, the commissioners then could transfer that ownership. But the DNR like the idea that we were taking the ownership of all of them because it smooths their process of moving them on. So, I didn't want to tell them we'd definitely do it unless I had the support of the commissioners, and if I do, then I'll tell them we'll do that and then they'll start that process. So, I would move that we accept the 7 right-of-way locations as presented on the map that I just gave Laura.

Gary Friend said I'll second. It kind of makes sense what they're doing. There's one in Ridgeville and I never did figure out why.

Mike said yeah, there're several of them up there, so. All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said and then the other matter I had is Jay Randolph Developmental Services, their building was a total loss because of the tornado. They don't intend to rebuild. They built that building with a community, OCRA grant, office of Community Rural Development grant and we were the grantee on that. Jay Randolph Development Services was the sub-grantee on that, sub-recipients, and we have to, they have to pay it back because they're not going, that building is not going to be used for the next 5 years, so JRDS has to pay the grant back, which means we have to pay the grant back, which they're telling me that they have insurance proceeds that will cover the total loss to pay the grant back. And I just told them, so we have to send a letter to OCRA saying that it is a total loss and that they're using insurance proceeds to pay the grant back. And I have a copy of that letter, but I haven't seen proof of total loss of what their insurance payout is going to be. So, they're supposed to get that that to us and hopefully, by next meeting, we'll be able to sign that off where we're going to pay that grant back or the JRDS is going to pay that back.

Gary Girton said are they going to do something else in the county then?

Mike said they say they want to be closer to town. So, I don't know.

Gary Girton said what are they doing now?

Mike said I don't know that either.

Gary Friend said that's a pretty good question there.

Gary Girton said I've asked, but nobody seems.

Mike said yeah. So, and that's all I have.

#### **Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Mike said do we have any citizens here this morning that would like to speak, share a comment, have a question?

#### **Adjournment**

Mike said okay. Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Gary Friend made motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Date: November 18, 2024



Mike Wickersham



Gary Friend



Gary Girton

  
Attested: Randolph County Auditor