

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

**November 4, 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 the council's update. We have 4 council persons with us this morning. Todd, do you have anything? Bev, Missy and Tom Chalfant? Any report for us this morning?

Bev Fields said I have nothing.

Mike said okay.

### **Jay Long– Bridge 32 plaque**

Mike said next item is Jay Long, bridge 32 plaque. Morning Jay.

Jay Long said morning. I'm not for sure on that plaque if anybody knows exactly what it says or anything. So, I took a couple pictures and printed them off. If you want to view them, you can view them. Gerald had some stuff going on this morning so he wasn't able to come up, so wanted me to take care of this for him.

Mike said is this the one north of town, on old 27?

Jay Long said no it's actually on 100 West between Stockyard.

Mike said okay. 100 West so it's one we're replacing?

Jay Long said yes. There's actually of them on there, but they both say the same. One is on the northwest corner and one is on the southeast corner.

Mike said does anybody know who Harper is?

Nathan Moore said I was going to ask you guys that. That's what I was hoping you guys could?

Mike said Tom, do you know who Harper is? Harper bridge over White River, 1961.

Tom Chalfant said where is it or what?

Mike said who he is? This bridge is named after him I think.

Tom Chalfant said no.

Mike said anybody else in the audience know who Harper is?

Tom Chalfant said there was a Claude Harper who was a farmer years ago, but I can't think of anybody else.

Mike said well, first thing we probably need to do is preserve the plaque and I think at a later time, we could just determine what to do with it and whether we put it out there with the bridge or whether we don't do that.

Gary Friend said one thing, you could put it right back on the new bridge.

Jay Long said no I wasn't for sure, so, like I said, I just went out and took pictures.

Mike said can you get it off of there?

Jay Long said yeah, I'm sure we could, there're two of them. There're actually two of them so we can.

Mike said you can take them both off.

Jay Long said yeah, I didn't want them to destroy the bridge or, you know what I mean?

Gary Friend said this particular individual that wants it is also granting us the easement?

Jay Long said I do believe that, yes.

Gary Friend said that we're buying?

Jay Long said yes, yes. I don't know all the details.

Mike said okay. Anything else this morning?

Jay Long said no, that's it.

Mike said you've been doing some paving.

Jay Long said yep, yeah. What do you think?

Mike said pardon?

Jay Long said got any thoughts on it?

Nathan said we're still learning.

Mike said you're still learning. It's a new thing for us. We're using the equipment and it looks like hot mix and it's smooth.

Jay Long said yeah.

Mike said I had one citizen comment it's better than what it was. That's a good thing.

Jay Long said just trying to do what we can. Appreciate it.

Mike said any questions of the highway department?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

### **Wynter Wagoner, Ken Little – Headwater's III update**

Mike said Wynter Wagoner and Ken Little, Headwater's III update. Morning.

Ken Little said good morning. Really appreciate you having us this morning. So, I'm Ken Little. I think I've met most everyone briefly here before, just kind of standing up and talking about EDP. I've been with the group about, a little over 15 years now actually.

Mike said oh, really.

Ken Little said grew up just outside of Losantville, worked for EDP out in Illinois. And kind of been working both in Canada now, here in Randolph County too, for EDP. So, Wynter and I have been working on the Headwaters III Windfarm for about a year and a half now. But EDP has still been developing the project since about 2018, 2019. I think maybe in our last round updates we talked about timing of the projects. We just want to give some updates where we're at today. The project still largely looks the same. I think actually Mike, I may have mis-spoke last time. I said the project is around Highway 1, but it's actually about 3 or 4 miles west of High 27. It's kind of the eastern boundary of the projects all the way to Delaware County, and north of 32, and south of around 700 to south of Ridgeville. And with that, the project has been going well. We're working on private leases still for the wind turbine locations. Most of those are secured. We haven't finalized the turbine model, but we're expecting it be around 45 to potentially 49, 50 turbines, depending on which ones we finalize around. For us, the transmission line because this project does not interconnect in Randolph County. So, unlike all the remaining projects for Headwaters I and II, those connecting into the Losantville substation, we're still largely on the same line in connecting with AEP. But it's over in Desoto. That's kind of been the challenge still yet is finding the pathway from Randolph County to the Desoto substation. And so, that's been an item that we're expecting the project now be a 2027 timeline

for finishing. But otherwise, the remainder of the project has been kind of going on as we have talked about and planned. So, the project in its shape looks about the same for the roads that we would be intending to use, the same that we spoke with commissioners on before and have received guidance of certain roadway restrictions, limited traffic anywhere near the golf course, and those kind of items, that we still feel hold to the projects. So, having the whole view and knowing the size of the project still being 200 megawatts, That has not changed for the overall. We're proposing that we continue to move forward with the agreements that we've already put in, appreciate Meeks very much having put efforts into that for those agreements. So, we have those draft agreements in for review and are hoping to work towards finalizing those because then it keeps the data we have for the Economic Development agreement and other things that Meeks has gotten for the county, kind of fresh and codifies those. So, I think that's a little bit generally, where we're at with the projects. Like I said, all things still remaining looking the same. That's just the time line movement for us to expecting about into 2027 for the project to be finished.

Mike said you're looking around 50 turbines?

Ken little said up to, it's probably lower 40s.

Mike said it seems like 3 or 4 miles west of 27 to the Delaware County line seems like they're pretty well spread out.

Ken Little said yeah, and it's could even be more likely the low 40s. It's just the turbine technology now, most turbines offered are over 4 megawatts each. And they don't increase a lot with height. We have worked with FAA of interest in terms of height and location for the towers. There's a new planned higher activity court order that actually is about smack over Winchester. There's more of a restriction to the east towards 27, so further east of where our project was. But to that end, that's been, the only thing identified otherwise, they didn't find any radar impacts or any other civilian impacts for them, so they've given general positive messaging on that. So, that's also in terms of anything north of Winchester and that corridor, would be very limited development for any projects in the future.

Mike said Gary, do you have any questions?

Gary Girton said no. Appreciate the update.

Gary Friend said how much higher are the 4 megs over the 2 megs in height, or what's the maximum height?

Ken Little said they contend to be around the same, getting to about 500 feet without much more computation from FAA. If you were to go above 500 feet, the FAA will add for time to review. So, we're still kind of looking at that that same 500, 499 area. It could potentially be higher, but the turbines don't necessarily have to be higher to have that higher output now. The blade widths are wider in terms often 120, 130 meters, so, 360, 390 feet for the width. And that's where it generates the power, which is from the length of the blades.

Gary Friend said okay. How high is the nacelle?

Ken Little said it would, I would have to look and see where we're at, but I think that would probably put us around just under at a 100 meter heights. And this is where it can differ depending on either where your air space constraints or otherwise, so you can see those towers anywhere from about 90 to a 100 meters, so 330 feetish in height, and then in areas. For instance, like I said, I've worked in Canada extensively before. They don't have the same airspace constraints, and you could see towers up to a 130 meters. So, getting up to 450 meters to the heights. But that's not typically what you use, installation in this area.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Mike said okay. Appreciate the update. Thank you.

Ken Little said thank you very much.

### **Chris Burton and Marcus Schrader – Workforce Chaplains**

Mike said Chris Burton and Marcus Schrader. Morning Chris.

Chris Burton said good morning. How's everybody doing? So, appreciate it. We talked to Laura and Shannon about, so, this company that's called Workforce Chaplains, this is Marcus. We ran into them probably about a year ago at Human Resource Conference and so, their company really is like an employee assistance program, an EAP, kind of like on steroids as Marcus would say, because it brings a personal touch to employees that are going through any kind of life difficulty that they might be having. And I'm sorry for the recent loss here you know, in your work family. So, that kind of prompted me to think about Marcus and what he does with some, we just kind of started our relationship. There's a bank down in southern Indiana that was going through a lot of different issues, employees, on a lot of different things, and asked us, do we know of anything they could, we could present to them to help. And we obviously sent them information on their EAP which they have, like you guys have. I said I just ran into Marcus. I said this might be something that could help. And so, they actually hired Marcus's company to help them with some issues. So, it's really a neat company. We like the partnership we started with them because there's just so many things that our medical team you know, run into all the time. People, you know, we all struggle with things from time to time. So, anyway, I think it's a great resource for you. I care a lot about you guys, the employees here at the county. We know in the past, you know, there's been some issues like with the sheriffs going through difficult times, all kinds of different things. So, anyway, I'm going to let Marcus kind of go through just the highlights of what they do. And it's not like they leave with a spirituality piece of it, but they're there just to help people. But it can definitely get to that point, and he can talk more about that. So, Marcus, go ahead and go through the basis of it.

Marcus Schrader said thanks Chris, and thanks for letting us be here today. You might be familiar with military chaplains or hospital chaplains or sports team chaplains, but our company focuses on employees in the workplace. And what we offer is to love, serve and care for employees and companies to be a listening ear, and to help them in times of trials. Struggles, difficult times. What makes us a little unique, we provide a team of chaplains. We provide male

and female chaplains. We provide, if needed, African American, bi-lingual chaplains, as well. But we'd like to share how we do it as we're optional, so no employee has to reach out if they don't want to. We're confidential a third-party certified chaplain when people come to us with issues, whether it's personal, family, addition, whatever it might be, we do not go to HR or to their supervisor to share. We try to get them the help they need, provide a ministry of presence in a listening ear. And we're also non-denominational so that's kind of how we function, optional, confidential, non-denominational. We have a team of 70 chaplains in Indiana specifically. We serve close to 30 to 35,000 employees. But what makes us unique as well, is we're available to the immediate family. So, an employee of a company has some issues, maybe their spouse, or boyfriend, girlfriend, children want to reach out to a chaplain, our services are available to them as well. So, I was born in Logansport. I live in New Palestine, but we have chaplains all across the state. And we would love to bring our care, and to people in this county.

Chris Burton said definitely a unique approach, and like I say, it's just, like first when we ran into these guys, I thought of you guys actually. I thought it could be a help to you. So, cost-wise, there's a seed in there. It ranges, they don't really have one set program. It depends on you know, how many visits, you know, all your locations are right here in the county. So, that's pretty easy. It can range from as low as \$500.00 up to like \$2,000.00 a month. So, if you're looking at a, on your proposal here, I think it has like, a \$2,000.00 a month charge for that, you know, \$24,000.00 a year. If you look at that in relation to what's your medical plan, what you guys pay, you know, a little over 2 million for your medical plan, it's less than 1% of the cost of that. So, it's you know, knock on wood, your plan ran really well last year, you ran right at expected cost, almost to the penny, which is kind of crazy. But, in this year, you're starting out the year really well, which is great, so, you know, being a self-funded plan, we don't really know, I don't have a crystal ball, I don't know where the, you know how the whole year is going to go, but typically, you guys have always run right at expected cost. We've not had that major, major fluctuation there so, in relation to the medical plan, it's not a lot of money. The way I kind of look at it, I'm sure you guys probably have some questions. They, other companies, I know Wood-Mizer in Batesville, is not too awful far. They're a big company that uses Gaylor Electric in Indianapolis is another one. They have a lot of different companies around Indiana that they work with.

Mike said any municipalities or counties that we could reach out to, to find out?

Marcus Schrader said I live in Hancock County. We provide chaplain care to their drug court and their behavior court. The drug court is under Judge Sirk. The behavior court is under Judge Davis. We provide chaplain care to the employees of those courts, also their participants. This is a newer segment we're getting into at this point, but I could give you some contacts in Hancock County where I actually reside.

Mike said okay. So, the fee, how is that based? On the number of employees we have, the size of families they have, or how do you do that?

Marcus Schrader said yeah, it is based on the number of employees and then how many, how frequent you want the chaplains to visit the locations.

Mike said yeah, that's spelled out here so.

Marcus Schrader said right. So, normally, it's a fee based on each employee, and one thing just to make clear, when we mention the EAP, because an EAP employee assistance program, you call that number, what make us unique is our chaplains generally live in the area and an employee can call, text or email a chaplain 24/7. They can reach out to a chaplain any time they want for a conversation, a text or email, and then that chaplain will meet with them in person if they so choose. Meet for coffee, just form a friendship. Now, if that doesn't happen, the way we serve will be a guaranteed visit whether it's once a month, once every other week, or once a week, to just build repour, or build a friendship.

Mike said so if I have a crisis and I call a chaplain, is that my chaplain through the crisis?

Marcus Schrader said yes. And the on-call piece, people who work for the county whoever it would be, I don't know who it would be, we want a liaison who directs us to needs. Can you make this hospital visit, can you go to this funeral, can you reach out to this person? So, you can direct us, but what I like about it is an employee anonymously, can reach out to a chaplain. They don't have to get permission from a supervisor or boss, and they can do that. There's no limit on that. You see the different price fees there, the difference in price is simply, because we pay our chaplains, we pay their drive time, etc., and how many visits they're going to make. So, what we don't know is how the utilization generally, for us, is 10 to 20% in a quarter. So, if you have 150 employees, you do the math on that, generally, in a quarter, we would see 10 to 15% utilization. We send you monthly reports at the end of each month, how many people reached out. We don't leave names. It's totally anonymous. Gender and names are left out. But you'll know how many people reach out to us and what the utilization is on a monthly basis.

Mike said so, how would I become a certified chaplain to work for you?

Marcus Schrader said well, if you've been a chaplain in the past in the military or hospital, then that's going to be an easier process. If you have a master divinity degree, a seminary degree like I do, it's going to be an easier process, or if you have CPE training, clinical pastoral education. If you don't have those, then we have partnerships that will certify people, will train people. Some of that includes clinical pastoral education. Some of it includes being ordained and certified as a chaplain. We partner with different organizations. If you look on our website, Workforce Chaplains.com, you can read the bios of many of our chaplains. Many of them have been in ministry before. They are already licensed and ordained as a minister. So, again, that type of person is a very easy transition to be one of our chaplains. But if someone has a heart to do what we do, we send them through training that takes about 3 to 6 months. And I tell people we're looking for people with high empathy, a love for others and genuine care for people. And so, we don't rule anybody out if they want to join our team.

Mike said okay.

Chris Burton said but I think it's important we get the question, they're not really, the spirituality piece, that's not their lead, their lead thing. They're just there to help people. Many times, it leads to that. You know, they're not trying to tell people, hey, you need to go to church. You

know, their name, Workforce chaplains makes you kind of think well they're kind of, you know, that's what they do, but that's not really it.

Marcus Schrader said we make that clear, we don't do that. We start with the natural. We start with the physical, and unless that employee wants to take that step to the spiritual side, we don't go there. We're not going in handing bibles out. We're not going to hey, what's your relationship you know, with God. However, we have that training that if a person wants that, we'll do that. So, I'd say about 80 to 90% of our interactions, we're just a listening ear and a friend. And then when someone shares what they're struggles are, we're going to, we partner with other organizations in each county and to try to get them the help they need. Maybe they need rent money, maybe they need transportation. Maybe they need mental health, they need to see a psychiatrist or a therapist. We're not offering therapy and certified counselling. We're offering a person who will become their friend and will help them with where they are, and get them to the resources they need. But again, if someone does ask for prayer, we would love to pray for them. But that's not what we lead with. And so, we do want to make that clear. We serve a lot of big companies. And their HR, they're very interested in that. And that's why we say we're optional, we're non-denominational, and we don't lead with the spiritual care. But that is a piece to what we offer if an employee wants to go there.

Mike said do you have any questions?

Gary Friend said how many layers out do you work? If you talk to an employee then it's an employee's spouse, and all of a sudden, some employee's spouse's father, and how far out is, does this bind itself that Randolph, that the government here would be providing for?

Marcus Schrader said so, when we say immediate.

Gary Friend said a piece of this say we pay to provide this type of services, why aren't we providing for the entire county of Randolph?

Marcus Schrader said okay. So, when we say immediate family, it's not in our literature. We define that by children, boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse or parents. So, we're not talking cousins, aunt and uncles, etc., but spouses, boyfriend, girlfriend, children.

Gary Friend said another question. Why would this service be better for the county than a local pastor in the community that we have who actually knows a little bit more about our citizens, because there's a cost to this, general, somebody, I mean, I just, how does that work?

Marcus Schrader said sure, that's a great question. Yeah, well, so I don't know the local ministers. They would probably do a great job, maybe a better job than our people would do. I would say this, with our approach, you get a team of 6 chaplains, 3 women, 3 men, and they're on call, they're going to respond. Our team will respond immediately to whatever is being asked. Sometimes, of volunteer chaplains because a lot of entities and companies have volunteer chaplains, if they're on vacation, if they're sick, if they're busy that weekend, or if they're out of town or whatever, they're not going to be able to respond immediately. Our team that you would contract with us, we have a team approach. So, if one lady is not available, we have another. We



offer 3 women and 3 men who are trained certified chaplains. But to answer the quality of care, your people do and would do a great job. And, by the way, because we're in every county, we serve a lot of nursing homes, so we serve 220 long-term care communities in Indiana through companies like American Senior Communities, etc., so that means we've had to recruit chaplains all across the state. But, occasionally, people, organizations say well we have a volunteer person or we have someone who provides somewhat type of care, can you utilize them? We will meet with them and interview them and if they want to be part of our team, we would love to do that.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Chris Burton said you know, good questions. I mean, one thing I asked when we got involved with these guys, what kind of resources do you have because you run into an issue that you know, if it's addiction, if it's mental health, they have a ton of resources to direct people to. And then on the, on the church standpoint, I know, probably not everybody has a church. They might not all have you know, a minister or somebody to talk to. So, they're going to, they're going to basically impact all your employee base and not just a portion of it. So, I think that's important to know as well.

Mike said Gary, any questions?

Gary Girton said well, particularly in this day and age, we have a lot of issues, we have a lot of mental health issues that people don't want to come out and talk to someone about, whether a person in a group like this, who they can contact on the phone and get a step in the door so to speak, or a conversation to see what help they might be able to offer them, whether it's just a listening ear or whether it's that they make contact and you help them make contact with an organization that can pursue assistance to them in some way, I think would be beneficial. I don't know to what extent it would be utilized. I would hope it would be utilized well because I think we're seeing more and more issues there with employees that, and their families, the issue are kept behind the door and not drawn out to where it can help make the family situation better and the employee's particular situation at work better. And I think from the county perspective, if we move forward with this, that's what I would want to see done.

Chris Burton said good points. Well, again, as your benefit consultant, we ran into these guys, nothing makes me feel better than a resource that can help you and our clients. And you know, we, the bank, I mentioned down in southern Indiana, they really stepped in and really impacted, and so that really makes us feel good. And it kind of matches with Ertel, we come with a medical team and try to help employees that way. So, there's a good fit there. So, like I aid in the beginning, when I heard of these guys, I thought of you guys. And definitely wanted you to hear about it. And you know, I, it's, they've helped a lot of people, so, that's why I brought them to you.

Mike said and it sounds like a wonderful program. I think from a private industry standpoint, I think you can maybe define your audience a little better. Gary said that for our employees, it could be a good thing, and if we institute it, I'm sure it would be, but, I think what I'd like to do is maybe take it under advisement and we have the personnel committee to take a look at it and talk amongst the employees on that committee to see what they think about it and see if this

expense of a minimum of at this point, \$2,000.00 a month would be something that we'd want to add. And I don't know what the length of the contract is. You did provide us one, but, what is your typical contract length?

Marcus Schrader said it's a 90-day out typically. But, I'm the president and founder. We have a board because we're a non-profit, and so, we have a board and they normally listen to what I have to say, but we can adjust that lower than 90 days. The last thing I'll say, the benefit of us, we're a third party. So, you have that confidentiality and it's less, it's no liability on the county. We have insurance for all of our chaplains, liability insurance, so, that's covered. But, being a third party, people can feel comfortable reaching out and it's not going to impact them. I mean, I have 7 children, 25 down to 7, and I've actually had a child considering suicide. What I've learned in different companies, is if a person shares their personal problems at work, maybe they're going through a divorce or maybe their child is running away from home, or maybe they're suicidal, they feel like it'll impact their work, maybe affect a promotion, maybe affect what people think of them. So, they keep it quiet, they don't share, and they don't get the help they need. And so, we feel like we are bringing something to employees, a safe space to share without any fear of negative reaction, and then we try to get them help. So, thank you for listening.

Mike said I don't know how many of our employees have that outside of work, so that's what, I think maybe is something that, yet to be determined. I don't know how many have church families, and pastors in town or near town, so, I think we need to investigate a little further. Appreciate you bringing it to us.

Gary Friend said I have a final question. Could you, can somebody call your service on behalf of another person has no idea they're calling, would you blind call that person back? I mean, somebody calls you and says hey, I know an employee that I think has an issue, and you call that employee first, blindly? I mean, how do you, how do you keep.

Marcus Schrader said uh huh. We can, and we get that frequently.

Gary Friend said how do you keep from offending the person that just got a phone call?

Marcus Schrader said so, I don't know if you have in your packet, but we have different ways to connect with, we have QR codes. But, to answer that specifically, we would say hey, not sure if you're heard about us. We've just partnered with your company. I'm chaplain Marcus. I'm just calling to see how you're doing. I'm trying to get ahold of all the different employees over the next few months and it's just simple like that. We're going to respect that. We get that all the time actually. And we walk it very carefully because you're right. You don't want to offend that person, why is someone saying that, and you also don't want to betray the confidence of the person that initiated it, so, yeah.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Chris Burton said well we knew this was the first step. You'd want to look at it. We'll get you some references too. I think it would be important you talk to some other people that use them,

just to get an idea. But, you know, talking with Shannon and Laura, hey we need to go talk to your guys which we've done. We'll get you those references and go from, and if you want us to come back, talk to the personnel committee, or Marcus.

Gary Friend said how is this not a breach of church and government?

Marcus Schrader said well yeah, that's a wonderful question. One of the answers is there's a lot of federal and state funds that go towards chaplains, like I've lived, well, I live in Hancock County, but INPD has 15 chaplains that are paid. Lot of government agencies even in Indiana and other places, have chaplains that are paid. Fire departments do. I mean, out in the rural areas is normally more volunteer. But there is a lot of, so, and, not related to this, but there's a bill getting ready to pass the 2025, where they're going to allow chaplains and spiritual care in public schools. But the biggest thing, is optional. It's an optional benefit, and we're non-denominational. So, we're not representing any particular. We get that question a lot and that's been a, that's a good question. Thank you.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

Chris Burton said good to see everybody.

Mike said good to see you Chris.

**Ed Thornburg – Utility agreements**

Mike said Ed Thornburg, utility agreements. 24-21, 24-22, 24-23, 24-24, 24-25, 24-26 and 24-27, 24-28.

Ed Thornburg said yep. A lot of light poles getting replaced.

Mike said is there any reason not to approve all of these?

Ed Thornburg said no. They're all good.

Mike said you're recommending them all?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion we accept the recommendation.

Mike said I have a motion to accept the surveyor's recommendation to approve these county utility agreements just listed. Do I have a second?

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

Ed Thornburg said thank you.

Mike said Ed, we'll get these signed and get them to you.

Gary Friend said Ed, I'm happy you do this for us. It's quite a change from what we used to do.

Ed Thornburg said it's not, they send in the request, you look it up, and it's not a big, it's not been a big, like I say, all but one of these.

Gary Friend said I'm really just talking about the mechanism of getting these checked out and looked at and.

Ed Thornburg said it's just not that big a deal for me. Kind of what we do.

Mike said okay. Thank, Ed.

**Chris Peacock – Farm leases**

Mike said Chris Peacock, farm leases. Morning Chris.

Chris Peacock said morning. How is everybody. I have all four county farm leases. They've been signed by the tenants and they are ready for your final approval and signatures, the final execution on those. Are you ready for those?

Mike said I think so.

Chris Peacock said alright.

Mike said take all three signatures?

Meeks said I don't think so, but have to look on the lease.

Mike said tell you what, she's going to want them.

Chris Peacock said you can sign them later if you'd like.

Mike said we could do that.

Chris Peacock said you can just get them in, email them to me, all four if you'd like.

Mike said I'm hoping we'll have time between this meeting and drainage board, so we can get that all signed.

Meeks said you do want to probably vote on the Dr. Howell one which we did change it.

Chris Peacock said Dr. Howell crossed off two paragraphs that do not pertain to the cattle, pasture lease. Standard lease.

Mike said okay. Are you okay with that?

Meeks said yeah, I looked at it. I don't have any.

Mike said so, we have a modification of Dr. Howell's lease for the pasture field eliminating paragraph C which talks about repairs to the building expenses and ditches, and also paragraph 8 around the buildings' improvements keeping it in neat and tidy condition. There are no buildings there. Someone want to move approval of that modification?

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

Mike said okay. These have all been, we've all approved these before.

Chris Peacock said and the last item of business is Brandon Culy asked about removing the fence east of the fairgrounds, the north fence in the field east of the fairgrounds and the east fence, east of the fairgrounds field. He said he has brought this before you before and in livestock possibly getting out.

Mike said first I ever heard of it.

Chris Peacock said okay. Well, he just asked if I could bring it before you again. He said he's already done it once in the years past, and just asked that you might reconsider that?

Gary Friend said I don't even see the fence in my head right now. Why does he want to remove it?

Chris Peacock said just to keep those trees from growing up in the fence row.

Mike said so is that, do you see that something that benefits the 4-H?

Chris Peacock said I see if a calf gets loose, I've seen cattle get loose out there before. The fence helps.

Mike said maybe that's something we should run by 4-H Incorporated.

Gary Girton said I have seen that also, more than once.

Mike said their opinion of it is. If they could go for a long ways.

Chris Peacock said I'd be glad to present it to the 4-H Inc.

Mike said I appreciate that. That would be good.

Gary Friend said that works for me.

Mike said that work for you? Okay.

Chris Peacock said okay. Thank you.

Mike said thank you. We'll get these signed, scanned and give them back to you. Thank you.

**Bob McCoy update**

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

Bob McCoy said lighting of the monuments Saturday at 6:30 from Main, from Franklin to Washington, Main street will be blocked off for that lighting. I think they'll probably block it off probably after 2 o'clock or something. Other than that, Greenville is pretty much done. They striped it the other day. Probably some odds and ends to be finished up, but that project is complete. Franklin street project continues as well as the North street project. I don't know that we'll get them complete this year just due to the weather. Hopefully, animal shelter, I'm hoping to pour concrete this year yet to get that 30 by 80 addition added on. That's been a slow process. Been working with Maze Design. We're going to have to have fire protection throughout the building, the new building as well as the old building, which we didn't plan on, but it's probably something that should have happened a long time ago. So, that building, like I said, I hope to get the concrete poured this year and get the building finished in the spring. And I'd like to say, Sheen has complimented your highway department on, these guys have been really easy to work with, been a lot of corroboration between the two and they just finished up the old 27 going out, which they did a great job on that.

Mike said yep, that's good. Appreciate that too. Okay. Any questions of Bob?

Gary Friend said no, thank you.

Mike said okay. Thanks Bob.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

Mike said that brings us to Other Business. Art, Randolph County Sheriff.

Art Moystner said the only thing I have this morning is a quick update. The sidewalks have been fixed. I think there're a couple other places in probably the next year or two we'll have to address, but we'll address those when we get to them. Unless you guys have questions for me, I know there are some additional appropriations there. If you have any questions on those?

Mike said no. I think we're good.

Art Moystner said thank you.

Mike said yep.

**Payroll Claims \$326,387.77**

Mike said next item is our payroll claims in the amount of \$326,387.77. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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

**Regular Claims \$743,693.56**

Mike said next item is our regular claims in the amount of \$743,693.56. I'd entertain a motion to approve those.

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

**SJCA task order 2 Claim \$15,750.00**

Mike said next item is an SJCA task order 2 claim in the amount of \$15,750.00. And that's for the study of the new road out on county road 1000 West. I'd entertain a motion to approve this claim.

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

**4-H Future Needs Claim \$1,650,000.00**

Mike said next item is a 4-H Future Needs claim in the amount of \$1,650,000.00. Been approved prior with both the council and commissioners. I'd entertain a motion to approve the 4-H Future Needs claim.

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

**Thor Construction Claim \$69,189.35**

Mike said we have a Thor Construction claim in the amount of \$69,189.35. This is for progress work on the Farmland EMS building, which is going up in a timely fashion. I'd entertain a motion to approve this claim.

Gary Friend said I've reviewed it all. Everything was up to date. I move to approve it.

Mike said the contractor has signed it, and Gary has moved to approve this claim. Do I have a second?

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

Mike said I think that's the end of the claims, is it not?

Laura said yes.

**Head Start lease (amended)**

Mike said next item is the Head Start lease which we approved at our last meeting and Head Start has indicated that their lump sum payment of 5 total years, they've been advised that they

shouldn't do that. And so, we have a 5-year least with them with a stated lease amount and they're just going to pay \$5,600 on 11/1 and then it looks like they're going to pay annually \$16,800.00 starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 through March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2028, and then a final payment of \$8,400.00 on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2029, which should add up to the total amount that we approved last time. So, I'd entertain a motion.

Gary Friend said with the math being correct, I'd make a motion to approve.

Mike said to approve this as corrected. So, I have a motion to approve the amended lease, do I have a second?

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

**EDIT Plan and set meeting (Saratoga needs a meeting too)**

Mike said the next item is an EDIT plan and set meeting, and Saratoga needs a meeting as well. So, our EDIT plan has one addition.

Laura said it was Achieva for 2025 is what we've added.

Mike said okay. Achieva for 2025. We need to vote to amend the EDIT plan and then we need to set an EDIT meeting. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve the Achieva 2025 grant of \$5,000.

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

Mike said Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 o'clock?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said Saratoga has a request as well.

**Purdue Extension Contract**

Mike said Purdue Extension contract. This is an extension contract with Purdue, it's an annual contract made on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January. This is something should wait?

Meeks said it's a state contract. I don't know if you can wait on it.

Mike said okay. So, this says contractual services appropriation for the extension educators in the amount of \$127,510.00.

Gary Friend said it's in the budget.

Mike said so does someone want to approve this contract?

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



Gary Friend said I don't remember this coming through, but is this a yearly thing?

Meeks said yeah, it's annual.

**ARPA for federal audit \$17,294.93**

Mike said next item is the using ARPA for the federal audit. Federal audit cost us \$17,294.93. The local one was 37,486.17, the Federal was 17,294.93 and the question is, do we want to use ARPA to pay this claim?

Laura said we can pay the Federal portion out of ARPA.

Gary Friend said yeah, I'll make a motion we do.

Mike said it's going to be an ongoing expense. Have a motion to approve the \$17,294.93 out of ARPA. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton said for the Federal, yes. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Remaining ARPA Discussion**

Mike said and now we're going to talk about ARPA and how we're going to deal with out balance.

Meeks said I talked to Laura and I think we have a pretty good solution. And then you guys got maximum flexibility. But, I don't know the mechanics of it yet. So, either, according to the, literature Laura sent from the State Board of Accounts, you can pay 2025 or 2026 salaries. I emailed Jason, like oh no, you can't pay future obligations like that, but you can reimburse you from last year for salaries. But that's not what I understood.

Laura said I talked to Jason at Gary's request, and that's what he had told me. Reimburse yourself for 2024 salary. But then I sat through the class and they're saying no, you're going to pay 25, 26, and I think I, did I share that? I sent it to them too.

Meeks said I read it.

Mike said you sent us the presentation?

Laura said yeah. That's from State Board of Accounts.

Meeks said when I read it, I was like well, okay, Jason is saying one thing and the State Board is saying another. I emailed Jason yesterday afternoon when I was reading through those things. Whichever way we do it, we think that's, whichever way is the best way, either reimburse you for next year, or for last year, or pay next year, then your General fund will have whatever that balance is. And then you use the General fund balance for whatever project you want. So that money would free up whatever in your General fund. So, I think probably the transfer of that

General fund is some sort of a, just a line somewhere, so that you can track it, or whatever is easiest to track with Laura's office.

Laura said we'll have to get the details of how they want that done.

Gary Friend said right whether forward or retroactive, when does this decision?

Meeks said by the end of the year. You have 3 more meetings.

Gary Friend said right.

Meeks said hopefully, if you guys say well reimburse the payroll, then I'll have Laura get that amount and we'll figure out what resolutions we need to do then.

Gary Friend said which would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in December.

Meeks said well we'd really want to get it done well before that in case they'd then say oh no, you were wrong, you have to wait.

Gary Friend said well I'm looking at the next meeting, November the 1<sup>st</sup> one in December.

Meeks said yeah, December 1<sup>st</sup> in December at the latest is what I would think.

Gary Friend said okay. Because I have some information for the commissioners to review and make decisions on about revamping the morgue that could come out of ARPA.

Meeks said well, we have to give them the contract. That's the problem, right. So, if you have a concept to revamp the morgue that's great. But we have to have a contract.

Gary Friend said what's the legal limit on what's allowed to be spent before you have to go out and bid?

Meeks said \$50,000.00 you have to solicit, or it is a 100,000? I'd have to look.

Gary Friend said Darrin is coming.

Meeks said it's 250.

Gary Friend said our coroner is coming in two weeks with a proposal that we can.

Meeks said but we're not going to have a signed contract by then is the problem.

Gary Friend said yeah, probably not.

Meeks said so, the best thing to do is to do a, reimburse yourself, and then enter in the contract with the morgue whenever.

Mike said so, we're taking the position that the presentation that was made to Laura is incorrect?

Meeks said I thought it was correct. That's why I emailed Jason last night.

Laura said he sent that, yeah, he sent that to Jason because Jason didn't stay for the presentation. It was on Friday morning in my conference. Jason left Thursday afternoon.

Meeks said if I sent Jason the presentation, mean like Jason, this is what they're telling us. And I assume he's looking at it today.

Mike said okay. So that includes legal and administrative costs too.

Meeks said I didn't get a chance to look at the presentation until Sunday afternoon.

Mike said we could pay for audit cost next year.

Meeks said yeah.

Mike said well, just so we act before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Meeks said I think the goal would be to probably reimburse or to pay the payroll, take the money, the excess money in the General fund and then use it for whatever projects you want to use it for. That would be, I think the recommendation from, well from me for sure. I don't want to speak for Laura.

Laura said well and that's basically what I was told at conference. But like I said, I was told two different things. The State Board said this and Jason said this. So, we just need to clarify can we do that.

Meeks said that's going to be the easiest for you guys.

Mike said okay. Any other discussion? We'll wait to hear from Jason to make sure we choose the right direction.

Laura said hopefully we'll have more information by the next meeting.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**Assessor**

Chief Deputy Stipend \$500.00

Mike said that brings us to Additional Appropriations. First one is the Assessor, chief deputy stipend of \$500.00.

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

**Commissioner's**

Leap Managed IT \$5,410.00  
YOC – Juvenile Detention \$30,000.00

Mike said we have two for the commissioners. One is a Leap managed IT in the amount of \$5,410.00, and the other is the YOC Juvenile Detention in the amount of \$30,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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

**Handgun Permit**

Ammo, Flares, Film, etc. \$8,000.00

Mike said next is a Handgun permit. Ammo, flares and film in the amount of \$8,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

**Health Department**

Group Insurance \$35,021.00

Mike said next is Health Department for group insurance in the amount of \$35,021.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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

**Public Safety LIT**

New Vehicle \$150,000.00

Mike said next is Public Safety LIT for a new vehicle in the amount of \$150,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

**Headwater's I**

4-H Future Needs \$1,650,000.00

Mike said next is Headwater's I, 4-H Future Needs. \$1,650,000.00, a claim we just approved. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

**Saratoga Fund**

Equipment \$7,000.00

Mike said our next additional appropriation is the Saratoga fund for equipment in the amount of \$7,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

**Prosecutor's Incentive**

Miscellaneous Expense \$1,000.00

Mike said next is the Prosecutor's Incentive, a miscellaneous expense of \$1,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

**ARPA**

Sheriff (drone) \$13,383.99

Mike said final additional appropriation is from ARPA for the sheriff's drone in the amount of \$13,383.99. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda. Laura, do you have anything for us this morning?

Laura said no.

**Meeks – Update on renewable energy agreements**

Mike said Meeks, do you have anything for us?

Meeks said nothing we haven't already discussed, only that Headwaters, I think those agreements will be out for your guys to look at hopefully, by the end of the week.

Mike said what agreements?

Laura said the Solar, are those Riverstart? You said Headwaters.

Meeks said yeah, I mean Riverstart, sorry. The agreements for the wind turbines, the new, is it the solar?

Laura said I think it's the solar.

Meeks said there's two. There're two of them going on.

Laura said oh, okay. I've not heard anything about agreements for Headwaters III yet.

Meeks said we have them.

Laura said okay.

Meeks said but I have them for reviewing.

Mike said what about the one out east of town?

Meeks said she said, Jason said that we'll have the analysis from them this week, and that will be out for you guys. We'll have Jason's analysis on that this week. And they wanted to have the first tax abatement on December, the first week in December for the council. They are to get those agreements too.

Mike said that's quick.

Meeks said yeah, that's the AES.

Mike said okay.

Meeks said I have the Headwaters. Those agreements, we're still looking at it. I just got them last week from them.

Mike said Riverstart and Headwaters?

Meeks said I have two sets of agreements going on, yes.

**Gary Friend – Farmland EMS Equipment and new morgue**

Mike said Gary, do you have anything?

Gary Friend said I do, two things. Brad's here from EMS, and he has some information on some outfitting equipment for the new building that we have requested out of ARPA. I think it's \$9,000 and some odd dollars. Brad, can you come up?

Mike said I think we got a copy of that didn't we?

Gary Friend said yeah. And while Brad's coming up, the second one is information is coming in from our coroner about the second phase of all of this. Darin is coming to our meeting, to discuss it. It's in the range right now, between 150 and \$175,000.00 to make a morgue for Randolph County, two bays of the ambulance, but that also includes either four coolers or six coolers. That's quite the difference in what we're looking at. I asked him to, when he brings to us, is there a time we've ever had six cooler versus four cooler. So, those are the things that may end up, that money in the County General, that we appropriate from General back out to finish this project of getting our own morgue.

Mike said that would be a good thing.

Gary Friend said yeah. That information is in your email boxes now. Brad, do you want to bring up what you're looking at for the new building equipment?

**Brad Mullen, Farmland EMS equipment**

Brad Mullen said yeah, the, I do have the refrigerator and washer and dryer quote. I just printed it off this morning and I did not get an email to you this weekend. I just got them in today. So, I printed them off this morning.

Gary Friend said can you email that all to us and we can move on it on the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting?

Brad Mullen said yes.

Mike said that would probably be good.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said got one here for, the furniture you sent the other day. Do you want to wait for that to the 18<sup>th</sup> as well?

Gary Friend said yeah, just do it all at once then. There may be some other things that come up too to get this all

Mike said yeah.

Gary Friend said do you mind, send it to all of us, or send it to Laura, ask her to send it to all of us and then we'll count on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mike said yeah. Okay. Good.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Mike said anything else?

Gary Friend said no.

**Gary Girton, Farmland EMS**

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

Gary Girton said no, I was over by the new facility in Farmland. I happened to be in that area, and it looks like they're progressing. I don't know, are they still shooting for the first of the year?

Gary Friend said I, what I understand, Brad, is this true, they're trying to be done by the end of this year aren't they?

Brad Mullen said yes. I had a conversation with Danny Stamper last week. He said he plans on, they're putting the windows in at the end of last week.

Gary Friend said they're in, yeah.

Brad Mullen said they plan on putting the shingles on, doing the outside work, and then starting inside within the next week or two. Then after that, we have to pick out the cabinetry, stuff like that.

Mike said okay. Anything else, Gary?

Gary Girton said so, just for clarification, when that's completed them, you'll have, then we will then redo two bays in the present system for the morgue?

Gary Friend said correct. And that's what Darin will be bringing to us, our coroner.

Gary Girton said so then, so then we'll go to 24/7 in Farmland?

Gary Friend said I think we're 16 hours a day right now in Farmland. But we're going to go 24/7, yeah.

Mike said that's what he asked.

Gary Friend said oh, Brad can you tell us exactly when 24/7 will start in Farmland?

Brad Mullen said as soon as that station is up and running.

Gary Friend said okay. Yes, Gary.

Gary Girton said there we go.

Mike said okay.

Gary Girton said that was the understanding I thought, but they I wasn't sure but I was asked when it would be complete.

Mike said okay. Anything else? I don't have anything for us this morning.

**Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Mike said do we have any citizens here this morning that have a comment? Tom Chalfant raised his hand first.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, I couldn't hear. Did you guys release the bond on the second phase of the Windfarm?

Gary Friend said not yet.

Mike said that wasn't on our agenda.



Tom Chalfant said okay. Well it's come up recently, and I just happened a few years ago, and Scott Fisher is on his way here to try to take care of it. But anyway, I remember we had a conversation with Mike Haffner after E&B paved the roads, that we would go, he would go out and inspect the roads and clear them so that we'd accept those roads. I believe we did that, but there's apparently no paper trail to that. So, EDPR I think is on the hook for a bond for that, and we've accepted those roads. And I know Mike Haffner told me, he drove them and approved them. Although, I think in the future it would be good to have discussion about paving the full width of the road. If you've driven those roads, you'd notice there's about every 30 feet or 40 feet where there's a new truck load of pavement, when you spread the whole width of the road, the fine separates from the coarse, and so you see a circle of coarse road there that doesn't get the same smooth treatment that the rest of the road does. So, I think that happens when you spread the whole width of the road, rather than doing half of the width at a time. But anyway, we approved those roads as the best to my memory, so we should release the bond.

Mike said this is for Headwaters II?

Tom Chalfant said yes.

Mike said we have a letter from them in which we're requested to be signing.

Meeks said I had sent that and they were going to come up today and ask for it, but they didn't.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, Scott Fisher is hoping to get here at 10:30. He had to take his daughter to the airport. He was going to come up and request it. And so, I told him I would try to take care it.

Mike said is he representing EDP?

Tom Chalfant said yeah. He was a general contractor. Indiana Earthworks is a general contractor and they asked him about it, and he thought it was all taken care of. But there's no paper trail, so that's why I thought we would try to create.

Meeks said well, on October, well I'm just looking here in my emails, 24<sup>th</sup>, who was here sent me a draft telling us to cancel, and I told her it looked good, fine on my end. And then they said well we'll bring it up to the commissioners on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, I was wondering why that didn't they didn't.

Meeks said they didn't bring it up. So, I just assumed that. I assumed there was something that popped up and that's why they didn't.

Tom Chalfant said well Scott called me Saturday and wanted to, I said well the best thing to do is just come today and have it taken care of. And like I said, Scott's hoping to be here in 15 minutes.

Meeks said well, it's good on our end. I told her I didn't see any reason why we wouldn't. It looked fine.

Mike said I think we did say they were in good shape. We didn't ask them to do anything else other than, we did at one time, ask them to help out on 300 West, north of 600, and they didn't want to do that, where they tore that road up. Then it's about a 100 foot stretch there that's a real mess.

Tom Chalfant said that EDPR did.

Mike said I think they did.

Tom Chalfant said okay.

Mike said I think it's, that 300 West is a pretty nice road except for that section. And that section can bounce you around pretty good.

Gary Girton said Jay was talking about that the other day about going out and looking at that and maybe try to get the county to do that yet this fall.

Mike said but I don't think that's Headwaters II frankly. That's solar there.

Gary Girton said right.

Mike said I mean I don't have a problem releasing them from this bond.

Gary Friend said I don't either.

Mike said it's been several years now and to my knowledge, we don't have any complaints on those roads.

Meeks said well if you move approval on receipt of a final, I only have a draft of this.

Mike said well that's what we only have.

Meeks said yeah, and on the final.

Mike said we can move approval and subject to the final draft of the letter being approved by us and the attorney. I think we can take your word for it, Tom.

Tom Chalfant said well apparently, Mike, didn't create a paper trail or something with that even, but I know he told us that, so, yeah.

Mike said okay. Someone want to move approval of the release of EDP from the bond that is part of our agreement of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and further amended several times after that?

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

Mike said thanks, Tom. Hazel.

Hazel Lewis said we only need about three or four minutes.

Mike said okay.

Hazel Lewis said we're actually the team of Lewis and Clark, and we are here today to support the Journey Home. I feel like we're really fortunate to have a Journey Home here in our town, and the wonderful things that they do for veterans out there. We're both veteran's widows so we have a tender spot in our hearts for that. And last week, when we watched those pictures on television of that home burning down there in Indianapolis, it just broke my heart to think that these are 51 veterans that were already homeless and they're homeless again. And that home had been there for 31 years. And I hope someday, I won't be here, but I hope that someday somebody can say our home has been here for 31 years too. What a blessing that is. And I've been cooking meals out there for over two years now. Mary Lou is my helper and she's been out there over a year. And so, I've never seen so much appreciation as those residents give. And, by the way, their favorite meal is sausage gravy, hot biscuits and fried potatoes. They love it and they love it, and we're so happy to be able to do that. And the support we get from the community is wonderful. It just, there's, every week there're people who come in with sacks and boxes bringing stuff in to contribute to the home. And it's just wonderful to have the community support. And there're several churches that go that extra mile and help out with the needs of the Journey Home, especially with volunteering. Without the volunteers, there wouldn't be anything that the home could do like on their own, like their golf outing. We had a fundraiser just a few weeks back. We had, it's just wonderful the time out there, we had there for that. And then we have monthly birthdays for the veterans, and all of this is donated. It doesn't cost the veterans' home anything. We have ice cream and cake and then we have this crazy game, left, right, or something or another like that. And Willard School will be doing a non-perishable food drive for the month of November up until their break at Thanksgiving. And we'll get a lot of canned green beans and canned corn. And you know, as long as you've got beans and corn, you're not going to go hungry. You're not going to go hungry. And our fundraising dinner was chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, a roll and that marvelous pie. You know what that was. It was a blessing, every, every item right down to the trays that we took the food out in, everything was donated. It did not cost anything. And we had two teenagers that came from Union City and they would out to the car, take the orders, come back in, the ladies in the kitchen fill the orders, and then they took them back out to the car and got the money. It was just such a blessing. We're already talking about trying to do another one. So, we help out with the birthday parties on Fridays, the first Fridays of the month. We have ice cream and cake and they enjoy that so much. And the volunteers are just, it's just wonderful to have the volunteers there when we do the second harvest food boxes because you need a lot of people like that, because we have an assembly line. And they know exactly what they're doing. They get in line over here and it just goes around like this, they go out the door, set it down, someone picks it up outside, they take it to the car. And this person comes back in and starts all over again. And presently, we are working on a Christmas project I guess that Mary Lou and I would be called

the outreach committee maybe. I don't know what we'd be called. Anyway, we have 24 veterans that we are aware of that have no family to do anything for them for Christmas, and we are working on making baskets or boxes, whichever it turns out to be, for each one of these. And we just appreciate all that help and we appreciate the American Legion Auxiliary from Farmland because they graciously donated us money so that we could keep this project going, and we want to do it again and again and again. I don't think there's anybody here that's spent a night without a bed to sleep in or food to eat that day, or they would have a roof over your head. And our Journey Home provides this for our veterans. Helping to prepare them to get on their feet again and find a job and get an apartment and become self-sufficient. This is our goal. Jesus said feed my lambs, and that's our goal out there. One more thing. Please feel free to come out the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of any month and have biscuits and gravy with them. I think you'll enjoy it. Thank you.

Mary Lou Clark. I'm the other half of the Lewis and Clark team. And I got suckered into this as a volunteer just to help once a month.

Mike said who did that to you?

Mary Lou Clark said once a month. Now, it's meals twice a month that we're doing. And any time we go around there into the kitchen, they think we're going to do a meal. So, they start gathering around the table. And I'll just, the thank you's, the sincere thank you's that we get from them, is just amazing. I just wish everybody could see and hear how they act. And I want to tell you that I'm so pleased that we have the building. So many times, the empty buildings are town down. But this one is being served very well. And I am very appreciative of that. Thank you.

Hazel Lewis said and I think we're also going to be doing their Thanksgiving dinner the way it looks right now.

Mike said you ladies are aware that we renewed our lease with the Journey Home, and it will expire at the end of next year, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Mary Lou Clark said so, we have to cook through all next year.

Mike said yeah, you'll have to cook all through next year.

Hazel Lewis said and we'll be here at the end of that lease to plead for another year's lease.

Mike said that's why I brought it up. You should stay in touch.

Hazel Lewis said alright. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your prayers, Gary.


Gary Friend said thank you.

Mike said thank you ladies, and thank you for what you do. Any other citizens that would like to make comments this morning?

**Adjournment**

Mike said hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

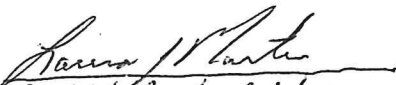
Gary Friend made a motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes.  
Meeting adjourned.

  
Mike Wickersham

  
Gary Friend

  
Gary Girton

*Approved December 2, 2024*

Attested:   
Randolph County Auditor

