

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

**December 2, 2024**

The Randolph County Commissioners 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 our agenda is a council's update. We have Missy Williams with us this morning. Missy, do you have anything to share?

Missy Williams said we don't. We haven't met since the last time you had a meeting. But I do want to share something with you and Gary and Gary too. But here in the last month, I don't know if you, I'd kind of gone around and talking to different people, in all of our small communities and the one thing that the overwhelming that they wanted me to tell you and Gary is that well, they don't always agree with what we do, and sometimes, you only hear the negative from people when it's an issue they don't particularly agree or understand that they have greatly appreciated, Gary, particularly you. Every community said he comes to our meetings, he comes to our events, he's always willing to talk and sit down and Mike, they said the same thing about you, that you were always very, very cordial. I think you guys need to know, and you too, Gary, that there are people, you hear the negative, but there're a lot of people who greatly appreciate what you've done and your service.

Mike said well thank you for sharing that Missy. I should share that I think it was when Tom Chalfant joined the commissioners, Gary and Tom and I had a meeting and at that point in time, it was my recommendation that we divide the 9 county communities into 3 and we each go to a community in our district. And I did that a couple of times, but every time I went, Gary was at the meetings that I went to, and Tom said the same thing, that Gary was at the meetings Tom went to, so I stopped going and let Gary cover those meetings for us. So, I do know he went to all of those meetings and was much appreciated obviously, by the communities as well as me as a commissioner. So, I thank Gary for that. Thank you.

### **Brad Mullen, EMS – Vehicle quotes**

Mike said next item is Brad Mullen, talking about the emergency services and the vehicle quote from Kelly Chevrolet. We table this from last week and this is for an almost fully equipped command vehicle.

Brad Mullen said yes.

Mike said this would basically, replace the use of a private vehicle in that office.

Brad Mullen said right.

Mike said do you have any idea what your own private vehicle expenses are for a year for use in the office?

Brad Mullen said I don't. When I started working with Duane, we never kept any of that around. He said if you have to run an errand, go run an errand or, go over to Muncie and grab our meds or go to a meeting, we just took off and went.

Mike said do you have any thoughts on what the ongoing expense of having this vehicle in your office will be?

Brad Mullen said yeah, we've looked over. I mean, the price of fuel will go up a little bit.

Mike said well I presume you're not budgeted for this vehicle?

Brad Mullen said right.

Mike said and so it's going to have to, at some point in time, your budget is going to have to increase, once it's purchased, if it's purchased.

Brad Mullen said right.

Mike said and I just. Do you have any questions of Brad?

Gary Friend said no. I'm personally in favor of it. We're running 2 stations now, so, the command vehicle for whoever is in charge. It's not like it's a personal vehicle. It's not uncommon to have one out there. Cities and towns have them, or at least two of them. Winchester has one and Union City. So, it's part of a standard operating equipment for EMS.

Mike said okay. Gary, what are your thoughts?

Gary Girton said well right now, I'm kind of in between. I wasn't aware until the last meeting that we were using individual cars to make all these drives, all these issues and not being paid for. And from my standpoint, if I'd known about that, I would have tried to do something earlier to correct that, rather than let it go on all these years, which apparently, it has. But this is a lot of money to spend for a vehicle. But, I really haven't made up my mind which way is the best.

Mike said well, if I'm reading this right, the total cost is around \$66,000. \$66,500.

Brad Mullen said yes for the vehicle and the lighting and equipment in it.

Mike said what were you thinking about how to pay for this vehicle?

Gary Friend said I was going to ask Laura is this would qualify for the ARPA.

Laura said I'm really not excited about doing anything else out of the ARPA. We still haven't gotten any paperwork from the coroner that you guys said you could buy out there. And we have to have it by the end of this month of we can't use it, or we have to give the money back.

Gary Friend said right.

Laura said so, they're not giving us the paperwork in a timely manner.

Gary Friend said so, this would have to be a County General expense that goes through the council.

Gary Friend said so, with that, is something we'll have to go to council.

Mike said well, I guess that's my hesitation is that we're not budgeted for the expense of the vehicle and we approve you having the vehicle, then we're kind of in a bit of a situation there if the council says well no, you can't have any money for this vehicle to support it throughout the year. So, I feel better about it sending it to council for approval than paying it out of ARPA or EDIT or any other fund that we have control of, or somewhat control of. I think the vehicle would be a good addition to the fleet at the EMS. And like Gary, I wasn't aware, and that's probably I had tunnel vision, I didn't think about other transportation, other needs, so, I would be in favor of authorizing the purchase of this subject to council's approval.

Gary Friend said I think that's a good move for now, more than just a personal vehicle, use is also an equipped personal vehicle issue.

Mike said right.

Gary Friend said but I was thinking that he should go to council because that's the normal on this type of purchase. If Council says yes, I'm in favor.

Mike said do you want to make that motion?

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we send this request to council for a County General Fund expenditure.

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

Brad Mullen said did you, all three of you get the emails about the Farmland EMS?

Mike said we did. Appreciate it.

Brad Mullen said they did a lot of work this weekend on the new station. They've got it almost fully wrapped with the brick around it. And I talked to the contractor and they plan on getting inside and it'll be up and running before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mike said that's what I read.

Gary Friend said I had spoken with Danny Stamper and it's likely that we'll have concrete in two weeks. Have you spoken with Farmland about the stop sign?

Brad Mullen said I sent an email. I was going to ask Meeks if, do we, do I need to go to a town board meeting to have that stop sign moved, or is that something that you can talk to?

Meeks said that's a town board decision. You will want to go talk to them.

Brad Mullen said okay. Just get on their agenda?

Meeks said yeah.

Brad Mullen said okay.

Gary Friend said I spoke to Andy Croyle three weeks ago about it and he's well aware of it.

Meeks said yeah, he'll have to go to the town council.

Brad Mullen said okay. I'll give them a call today.

Gary Friend said I'll give them some heads up too.

Brad Mullen said okay. Thank you.

Mike said thank you, Brad.

**Ceann Bales, Randolph County Trails Committee – Master Trails Plan**

Mike said next item is Ceann Bales, chairman of the Randolph Trails Committee to talk about a master trails plan. Looks like Grant Cox is with her.

Grant Cox said I like jumping in too.

Mike said morning.

Ceann Bales said morning. Jackie from Randolph County United also wanted to be with us, but she is home sick. So, she wanted to be here to help present but is unable. So, yeah, I'm Ceann Bales. I am the chairperson of the trails committee. It's definitely a committee-led. But that's my title.

Grant Cox said and my name is Grant Cox. I work for the Community Foundation of Randolph County. And we are here to present the information about the Randolph County trails master plan with hopes of getting the report adopted and incorporated into the county's comprehensive plan. This plan focuses solely on creating a trail network in the county, and will be a foundation for future alternative transportation initiatives that will help to improve the overall quality of life for everyone who calls this place home. And beginning back in 2018, the county had what's called the cultivating community initiative, which is a partnership between Randolph County United, the Community Foundation and Ball State's Indiana Communities Institute. And through this initiative, we've discovered that the county would like to see trails as a way to improve a quality of life in Randolph County. This master plan was developed through the partnership of the Community Foundation, Randolph County United and 14 committee members volunteered their time in overseeing this vision come to life. The plan was funded through the Lilly Endowments newest round of giving Indiana funds for tomorrow, is on gift 8. And in the planning grant, Community Foundations could apply for a grant to engage in planning activities aimed at envisioning and developing plans to enhance its communities' quality of life. The funds from the grant were used to hire the consultant team, a consultant team from BF&S Civil Engineers to facilitate the development of a proposed trail infrastructure plan. BF&S and the committee has spent the past 9 months developing the framework for future trail development ideas, options and design standards.

Ceann Bales said so, over that 9 months, we, first of all, wanted to make sure as we did in 2018, through the cultivating communities effort, sent post cards out to every resident in Randolph County. We also did the same through here with this effort. A post card went out to every resident in Randolph County inviting them to the open house. That's how we kind of kicked off the process and said this is our thoughts, what's your input? Then, from that, we took those suggestions and then had another community, anyone could attend event, where we presented those concepts. Again, got further feedback and then that's what really developed that overall plan that we present, are presenting to you today. I think you all received that in your email, or you should have. It's a very lengthy document. But, in that, you'll see that the results as we came up with, the community really wanted kind of a two-pronged approach. First, there were 8, what we call regional trails. Now regional is actually county in this context. And so, the 8 regional trails really connect our primary communities to those points of interest, and to schools, which is very important. So, in the plan, you'll see that those 8 regional or county routes are Winchester, Union City, Winchester to Parker City, Winchester to Ridgeville, Winchester to Lynn, Winchester, Cardinal Greenway, and then Union City to Ridgeville, and then the Cardinal Greenway to Lynn. And also, we want to connect, the people wanted to connect the McVey Memorial Forest, so then they could walk the trails there. Then, the local trails or really those connections, connections in Winchester and Union City specifically, so, Winchester to the Speedway and then down town Winchester and also to the Y. And then in Union City, we're looking at the Gateway Trail, extending that and then the Walnut Street trails in Union City, connecting those to the park. And I can tell you Mike was a part, very instrumental in this effort as well, but we, as a committee, I think we were surprised at really the community effort is really looking at those local trails. And so, that was a pivot in our thinking in the first presentation. And so, that's the beauty of seeking and community input. So, they really are looking at those local connections first, before those larger regional trails. So, that's the big feedback we heard. It is important to note that this document that we're going to ask to be adopted is a living

breathing document, right? It's really just, it can evolve, it can change, the priorities in it. It lists the priorities that we listed out and recommend for future people to consider. But this is really just a plan for elected officials to look at and help us move forward as we try to develop a network of trails in our county. And it's really important to note Jackie wanted to emphasize that this really is a trails, we know for a fact are an economic development asset for our community. And so, that's why we're so excited about offering this opportunity and thank the Community Foundation for funding. So, while we're here, just to kind of wrap up, is we know the process now is to go to the Area Planning Committee, but we would really like the commissioners' support and recommendation to the Area Planning Committee that they adopt this plan. But we're also aware that there are processes and systems that the Area Planning Committee has to go through.

Mike said okay. Well, one of the local trails I think you missed was Goodrich Park to the fairgrounds.

Ceann Bales said oh, yes, yes, you're right.

Grant Cox said it was in the document.

Mike said the third local trail in Winchester. And for the benefit of the commissioners, that's on page 18 of the trail plan if you want to jot that down. That refers to that. And I also want to point out that if you want to see a list of committee people who, some of them are present this morning, that is on Roman Numeral 3 of the master trails plan. And it's a pretty good cross section of the community that worked on and developed this master trails plan. Table of contents is on Roman Numeral 5, and then Ceann mentioned meetings and public open houses, and there's a list of those on page 14. So, we did seek and receive a lot of community input. And I think one of the things that we recognized and this master trails plan takes into consideration is that from the input from the community and our inability to, our lack of ownership of railroad right-of-way, and our inability to convince property owners throughout the county that relieving themselves of their ownership of right-of-way would benefit a trail plan. Most of these trail, regional trails are on or next to highways or county road systems. So, that develops the Master Trails plan that way. So, do you have any questions of Grant or Ceann?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said well Meeks has indicated to me that to amend the comprehensive plan, which we passed in April of 2018, I believe, it first goes to the Area Plan Commission. They have a public hearing and then they'll determine whether or not this becomes an amendment to our comprehensive plan. There are paragraphs in there regarding trails, how this would be added to that at that portion of the comprehensive plan. If the Area Plan Commission adopts it, if they send it back to us and then the legislative bodies of the communities in the county adopt it to become part of the comprehensive plan. What I would like to do this morning if we can do that is that we having the opportunity to review this plan, we recommend to the area plan commission that they look at this, as their schedule allows, I think their next meeting is in January, and consider this as an amendment and have the public hearing, and I would be a proponent of adoption at that point. And then, it would come back to this, we're the legislative body for the

county, it would come back to us for final adoption for the county and then go on to the city of Winchester, Union City and the other legislative bodies. So, I would move that we recommend this to the Area Plan Commission as an amendment to our comprehensive plan.

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

Ceann Bales said thank you so much.

Gary Friend said Mike I'd like to bring up that it was mentioned possibly you'd like to be the county liaison for the commissioners as this develops through the years?

Mike said well that was particularly for the Vision Trail. I was going to talk about that at our next meeting.

Gary Friend said very good.

Mike said it might be, I probably, what I would like to do is wait until the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of January.

Gary Friend said I wasn't going to vote on it. I was just wondered if you'd be interested.

Ceann Bales said that's a great idea, Gary. Thank you so much. Thank you for your support.

#### **Jim Martin and Jen Tarter – Thank you, Lighting of the Monument**

Mike said Jim Martin and Jen Tarter, lighting of the monument, Main Street.

Jen Tarter said good morning. I'm Jen Tarter, president of Winchester Main Street. I have with me today Jim Martin. He's a board member as well as the lighting committee chair. We would just like to come here today to thank you guys for your support for our monument lighting that occurred on November 9<sup>th</sup>, as well as use of the courthouse. We again, had a great crowd, great weather. We were in short sleeves to put the lights up, which is crazy. So, that was enjoyable. And we also would just ask for use of the courthouse grounds and the courthouse for our event in 2025. We have already set the date for Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mike said. Okay. Are you okay with that?

Gary Friend said I am. I'll make a motion to we do this.

Mike said I have a motion to authorize Main Street to light the monument on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and use of the courthouse lawn and courthouse, I'm not sure what you used in the inside.

Jen Tarter said we just have some displays, the military displays and then the restrooms and then we have some guides. We had an art project this year too. That went over really well too.

Mike said do I have a second?

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

Mike said is there a reason the lights weren't on this weekend?

Jim Martin said yes. I'm working on that. It was Wednesday, with the heavy rain, tripped the GSI breaker, and so, I'm in constant with Eric Schroeder. Thursday after the wind came through and dried everything out, I pressed the button and they came back on again and haven't had any problems yet.

Mike said my daughter from Colorado, who's an IU graduate, flew home for two reasons. One, to see the lights on the monument and the other to watch the IU Purdue game with me on Saturday. Everybody have an opportunity to see that game on Saturday? It was a nice game. She enjoyed part of her trip

Jim Martin said did she get to see them?

Mike said she didn't get to see the lights. She's coming home for Christmas.

Jim Martin said okay.

Mike said thank you.

**Ed Thornburg – Utility agreement**

Mike said Ed. Utility agreement. I like the sound of that.

Ed Thornburg said can't have 8 every time.

Gary Friend said there was more than 8 last time.

Mike said this says Indiana & Michigan.

Ed Thornburg said yep, single light pole replacement.

Mike said one pole replacement.

Ed Thornburg said Huntsville Road.

Mike said Huntsville Road. Okay. You're recommending this?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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



Mike said Mayor Bob McCoy.

Bob McCoy said I have nothing.

Mike said you have nothing for us, okay.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

**Canteen Services Contract**

Mike said brings us to other business. Sheriff Art Moystner, a couple of matters. The price of meals going up?

Art Moystner said about 3.8%. I sent a copy of the cost and the agreement with Canteen Food Services for the inmate meals. That has been a, that is a budgeted item that's already been approved in the budget. With the new state law that had passed in July, it comes to the commissioners for review, so unless I get the commissioners' approval, I have to wait 20 days before I can sign that. So, if you approve, we can sign that today and get that process finished.

Mike said how many residents do we have over there?

Art Moystner said we are averaging 65. I did not look at the count this morning.

Mike said okay. We've all seen this. We've received a copy of it from the sheriff. Someone want to move approval of this?

Gary Friend made a motion to approve.

Mike said we have a motion to amend the Canteen Services in paragraph A regarding the increase in meal pricing. Do I have a second?

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

**MOU to add GPS systems to cars**

Art Moystner said the other thing that I brought this morning is an MOU with the other agencies of Randolph County that are going to participate. This is to put GPS in the vehicles, which I think is a very good officer safety move. I think it would also help dispatch, because on-duty units would be displayed on a map for dispatch for dispatching emergencies so they can get the closest unit more rapidly sent to the scene. One of the things to clean this up instead of having 8 different agencies contract with the same vendor, was I wanted to run it through us, I do have a line that I can pay this out of. I have talked to the council and they explained that it would require an MOU. Obviously, the MOU between those agencies for financial return to us goes through the commissioners. So, if you are willing to move forward with this, as soon as I get approval from all parties involved, I will do a docusign that will be sent by email to the president of each and the department heads so everybody can sign the same document. And then it'll be sent to all of you.

Mike said okay.

Art Moystner said everyone I've talked to is in agreement with this. All of the department heads think this is a very smart move and where we need to go.

Mike said and it looks like you're just getting the commissioners' signatures just as a party to the agreement for 911 and sheriff's department.

Art Moystner said since it is a contract outside of the norm, it would require me to have a commissioner's signature and commissioner's approval to move forward.

Gary Friend said and you won't execute the contract to go forward until all 8 parties are on board?

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said if one of them does not, do you just come back and do it over?

Art Moystner said then we'll talk about seeing where we want to go from there.

Mike said okay.

Art Moystner said but I've spoken to all 8. All 8 are on board.

Mike said have you seen the MOU?

Meeks said yeah, it looks fine.

Mike said it looks good. Someone want to move approval?

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

Art Moystner said that's all I have this morning, unless you have questions for me.

Mike said I don't have any questions of Art. Okay. Thank you.

#### **Minutes of November 4, 2024**

Mike said brings us to our minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which we received via email, which Gary found a typographical error on page 5, talking about the wind turbines and the height of the new wind turbines. Gary's conversation was talking about how high the nacell is, n a c e l l and that's the box we see from the ground that holds all the inner working parts and the minutes reflected cell, so, corrected that to nacell, n a c e l l. And with that, were there any other additions, corrections or deletions? Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

Gary Friend made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Payroll Claims \$328,499.73**

Mike said next item, our payroll claims, which are at our place in the amount of \$328,499.73. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll claims.

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

**Regular Claims \$470,719.30**

Mike said next item, our regular claims which we received via email and I'd entertain a motion to approve the regular claims in the amount of \$470,719.30.

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

**Butler Fairman & Seufert (Airport) \$16,366.56**

Mike said next item is a Butler Fairman & Seufert claim in the amount of \$16,366.56, and this is for the airport.

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

**State Board of Accounts State Audit Claim \$37,846.17**

**State Board of Accounts Federal Audit Claim \$17,294.93**

Mike said next two claims are for the State Board of Accounts. One is for the state audit claim in the amount of \$37,846.17 and the other is the Federal audit claim in the amount of \$17,294.93.

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

**Stryker Agreement Claim \$56,787.96**

Mike said next item is the Stryker agreement claim in the amount of \$56,141.10. I'd entertain a motion to approve the Stryker claim.

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

**Acrisure Highway Workman's Compensation Claim \$7,750.00**

**Acrisure Highway Liability Claim \$24,555.00**

Mike said the next two claims are Acrisure highway workman's compensation claim and Acrisure highway liability claim. And these are insurance premiums?

Laura said and they're normally in the regular claims but we received them late.

Mike said okay. So, these are separate because they came in late. I'd entertain a motion to approve both these claims for the highway insurance, workman's comp and liability.

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

#### **Set EDIT meeting for Saratoga's amendment**

Mike said that brings us to the end of our claims. The next item on the agenda is our EDIT meeting. We need to set an EDIT meeting for the Saratoga amendment. We have, how does Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> look for everybody? Gary?

Gary Girton said I think so.

Mike said okay. Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said does that work for you Mayor?

Bob McCoy said yes it will.

Mike said okay.

#### **Microsoft 365 license renewal**

Mike said next item is our Microsoft 365 license renewal. This is brought to us from Leap. And this is our 365 renewal that is the county's email, county's Excel, county's Word and whatever else Microsoft provides us through our Microsoft account. I think it's a lot more expensive than what we had when I became a commissioner, but I think it's a lot more efficient and just a lot cleaner. And I'm going to say it's worth the money. And this is a monthly total of the license agreement plus there's 171 licenses plus the managed services from LEAP, monthly cost of \$33,067.38.

Laura said that's an annual cost

Mike said oh, it's an annual cost. That sounds a lot better. That's a big difference.

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

#### **2025 Commissioners meeting schedule**

Mike said 2025 commissioners meeting schedule. I trust you don't want to change it?

Gary Friend said no.

### **Final ARPA Discussion**

Mike said brings us to our final, according to the auditor, our final ARPA discussion.

Gary Friend said so, do we need a motion to put all ARPA funds not currently under contract to now being used insurance contract.

Laura said health insurance, and liability insurance. And then we put LEAP IT on there. I don't think we'll have enough to put on that.

Gary Friend said so, I can contact the coroner today. You'll have to run it now from County General. County General is well aware this is going to go, or the council is.

Laura said okay. So, we're going to switch the coroner's stuff to County General.

Gary Friend said we have to.

Laura said and the balance to the insurance.

Mike said well the intent would be to do that. We'd have to wait and see what the quote is. You'd have to approve that quote.

Gary Friend said which quote?

Mike said for the county coroner.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said have to pay for it with County General.

Gary Friend said pay for it with County General.

Mike said so today, we'd want to say that we're going to spend the balance of our ARPA on our health insurance premium and our liability insurance premium. And then if we have anything left, we'll spend it on our managed IT services.

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

Gary Friend said Laura, I'm going to reach out and get ahold of Darin and have him contact the auditor's office.

Laura said okay.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said and you spoke with the EMS, are they on the right trail?

Gary Girton said yes.

Gary Friend said okay.

Mike said okay. Is that all we want to talk about, is final ARPA?

Laura said yes.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**General**

**Overtime/Comp Payout \$160,000.00**

Mike said ready for additional appropriations. The first one is from General for overtime/comp payout, \$160,000.00. 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.

**Assessor**

**Chief Deputy \$500.00**

**Chief Deputy \$1320.00**

Mike said next two are the Assessor, additional appropriations for chief deputy of \$500.00 and chief deputy of \$1,320.00. The first is a level two stipend and the second one is a chief deputy duty increase.

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

**ARPA**

**New EMS equipment \$56,787.96**

**ARPA**

**Professional Services \$7,640.00**

**ARPA**

**Examination of Record \$17,294.93**

Mike said next three are from ARPA. First is the new EMS equipment in the amount of \$56,787.96. That's the one for the Stryker. The second one is for professional services in the amount of \$7,640.00, and that's for the re-write of our handbook. And the third one is for examination of record and that's for the state audit, Federal audit. I'd entertain a motion to approve all three of these additional appropriations.

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, I don't.

Mike said Laura doesn't have anything. Meeks, do you have anything for us?

**Meeks – Handbook update and South Salem Solar update**

Meeks said just that the handbook is.

Laura said I've read it and I made changes. I sent it back to Lori and so, we're real close.

Meeks said yeah. I saw your comments. I have not looked at that yet. But hopefully, we'll have this handbook kind of, what did she say, within the next week or so, I think?

Laura said yeah.

Meeks said she forgot a couple items.

Laura said yeah, she had forgot a couple of things at the end and one of the corrections, I sent back.

Meeks said so, hopefully, that will be something that you guys will be able to look at. If we can get that approved this year, then we can get probably a meeting set up with the employees at some point, maybe a highlight some of the things that's changed. Other than that, the solar projects and the wind projects hopefully, we'll have everything that we can have at the next meeting. Once we get the finalized documents, I'll send it to everybody. Also, on the South Salem, I got on their project, I have today an email that I'll forward on. Some other projects those people have done if you want to call them or catch up with them, and I will send that to the council also. Other than that, I don't have anything.

Mike said okay. Gary Friend.

**Gary Friend**

Gary Friend said yeah, there's a discussion at the APC on renewable projects coming hard and fast to Randolph County. There is an APC subcommittee to relook at if our ordinance is strong enough to help everybody or anybody. Just to see where were going with this. It's beginning to get louder and louder.

Mike said probably something to consider.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said okay. Anything else?

Gary Friend said no, they had asked about a commissioner being on there and I'm not so sure that I want to be the commissioner on there. Tom Kerns said he would be the commissioner on there. I was quite open with them. I feel a little bit critical. I been voting yes on everything up until right now. Your dealing with peoples' land rights. But yeah, it needs looked at it.

Mike said should we wait on these two?

Gary Friend said I don't see that. I think they're following the ordinance as it is right now.

Meeks said I will say this, according to experts and Rick, that this is kind of abnormal that all of these are coming in at this point, and they believe it's probably due to the new administration in DC that these are coming kind of fast and furious.

Mike said EDPR, and they're not here today, but it's my understanding, Brad kind of shared that, their project up around Saratoga or south of, around Saratoga is based upon Indiana and Michigan's need for that power. And they have a fast time line in getting that project completed just because of their customer needs. I'm one to say that I'm not sure a month for us signing contracts is going to matter a whole lot, for this board to do it as opposed to the new board. However, if they're coming to council tomorrow for a vote on, is that tomorrow?

Meeks said I haven't seen the tax abatement documents. Well, the one was in January. I'm not sure about South Salem.

Mike said so, it seems a little, again, I don't know what 30 days matters.

Meeks said the one we've been talking about for what, 9 months now, since this summer? So, that's not like.

Gary Friend said right.

Meeks said the South Salem might be the quick one. The other two, we've been talking about for the better part of a year.

Mike said okay. Gary Girton, do you have anything?

Gary Girton said I do not.

Mike said I don't have anything this morning.

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

Mike said have any citizens here that would like to share anything this morning?

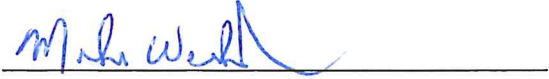
### **Adjournment**

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

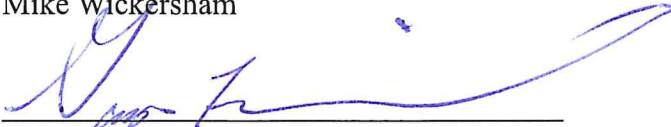
Gary Friend made a motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.



Accepted this 30 day of December, 2024



Mike Wickersham



Gary Friend



Gary Girton

Attested:

*Racura / Martin*  
Randolph County Auditor

