

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

June 12, 2013

The Randolph County Commissioners met for a special meeting at 9:00AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President William Terrell, Michael Wickersham and Gary Girtton. Also present was Randolph County Chief Deputy Auditor Jessica Olson, and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

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Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commissioners

William Terrell, President presided over the meeting.

### **Greg Beumer-Economic Development planning**

Greg Beumer stated that Gary Girtton has been participating as Commissioner Representative for a planning session with David Terrell who is Senior Advisor for the Lieutenant Governor's office. Commissioners would be working to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan. This would become the working document to re-energize the Eastern Indiana Development District (EIDD). On June 26<sup>th</sup> the regional meeting has been scheduled and OCRA needs the county's plan by that date.

Beumer was here to find out what Commissioners would like to prioritize as possible projects. Beumer stated he was not aware of any previous CEDS plan for the County. He would like to develop a ten-year countywide comprehensive plan that includes an economic development plan.

Secondly, there is a need for a countywide-workforce training program. Beumer commented at their strategic planning session with David Terrell, workforce development was appearing to be one of the major needs. Part of the workforce training program would include geographic regional partners, regional education providers and move beyond manufacturing to incorporate management and executive level training.

There is also a need to lay the groundwork for a speculative manufacturing building program. Beumer stated he has worked through many issues of unsewered communities such as Saratoga, Losantville, Indian Trail Lake and smaller communities such as Huntsville. He believes that it is only a matter of time before IDEM catches up and requires that these smaller communities deal with pollution to ditches and streams. The County would be the leader to address those issues in unincorporated areas. Beumer gave an example of sewer problems in an unincorporated town in Miami County. That county helped with a loan and some engineering costs as help for the small town to receive a grant.

Other issues that Commissioners might want to consider, as problems in the future are County roads and bridges, school consolidation and healthcare in Randolph County.

William Terrell also explained of problems with Losantville concerning the expense of putting in a sewer system. Meeks Cockerill stated there have already been required IDEM upgrades to several of the towns and cities.

William Terrell stated he would also like to see the wind farm maintenance building located in Washington or Union township since those townships will have the turbines. He wants the benefits of the building to be in one of those areas and believes that would be a selling point for bringing the project to the area. Beumer stated that he needs to have a building available for the wind project if they would locate close. He did comment that the Mayor of Winchester has given a proposal to EDP for land in the industrial park if they want to build because the infrastructure is already there. The town of Lynn or Modoc would need to have the infrastructure available. Beumer would contact Lynn to see if they have anything available.

Beumer asked what other things does the County want to think about. William Terrell stated one thing that still bothers him is the EIDD proposal whether we can be assured if we give money it would be safe. He wants good accountability of the funds. Gary Girtton stated that in the meetings he has been dealing with the State people said there could be more checks and balances that originally thought about.

Michael Wickersham thought that the list Greg provided was very good and thought possibly in the 1980's there had been a strategic plan but it had been put on the shelf several times. The needs for water and economic training are exhausting. Even if you don't have the industry coming into the area, the niceness of your community can entice more people to your area and even bring some industry.

Wickersham believes there should be a development of a park system of some sort to add to the list. Gary Girtton asked how many towns had been giving data. Beumer stated the people in his office are going out to visit with some of the towns to do this same thing we are doing today and I hope to have a comprehensive list by Friday. Girtton stated he would like to work together as a county to help a community if they were in need of something. Right now, we are working individually.

William Terrell stated that when we start getting the economic development payments from the wind projects we have something in mind to attract more businesses. He thinks that if we have money available to attract a business then more people will come into the county.

Beumer asked part of all of this is what likely businesses could we attract to the area and what assets do we have to offer. Then what size building do they need and where do those buildings need to be built. He stated I get those requests all the time. Wickersham stated you have to have a qualified workforce and

qualified schools, which goes back to the quality of life issue. Commissioners commented about how maintained and nice downtown Winchester looked. The landscaping of the Courthouse and the façade improvements of the storefronts has made a great difference. Beumer asked if Commissioners could pick three or four top projects. The CEDS plan is a priority and workforce training. William Terrell thinks we need to look at the sewer for the unincorporated towns. Terrell stated that Modoc and Losantville areas are going to have to be dealt with anyway. Beumer asked Meeks Cockerill if it would be possible to form a county sewage district that incorporates any towns. Meeks stated it would have to be a regional district for just that area, such as the case of Saratoga or Indian Trail Lake. There would have to be individual boards for just those areas. After additional discussion, Greg Beumer mentioned that the airport was looking for funding of a new terminal, which would include a new office. He stated there could be additional funding from the FAA. Michael Wickersham stated he thought it would be good to keep that project on the list since it could lead to more federal funding. Beumer recapped the four items that he believes that the County wants.

1. Development of a comprehensive economic development strategic plan for the county that would include economic development and feed into a speculative manufacturing building program.
2. Continuing the workforce training program at all levels.
3. Begin to look at wastewater treatment for unincorporated areas of the County.
4. Funding for a new airport terminal.

Gary Girtton stated we need to work with all the school districts on the workforce training and possibly bring back vocational education to the schools. He would like to see Indiana Wesleyan and Ivy Tech come into the community. Girtton would like to see all the schools at the table to provide the advanced manufacturing classes to all students. William Terrell stated he thinks we need to get the superintendents and school boards on board for these classes. Greg Beumer stated he would enter these objectives into the grid along with the other cities and towns comments for Friday's due date.

Beumer also wanted to talk about the wind farm project. Meeks Cockerill stated there would need to be another meeting to finish talking about the agreements and get everything worked out.

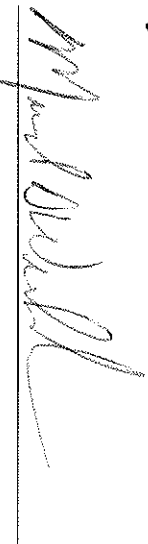
Beumer stated that Glen Boehm told him that IDEM needs another set of well samples. Boehm wants to know if he can get access to the building to start renovations. Meeks stated it's not the county's property and Boehm has to take possession through the tax deed before entering the premises.

**Adjournment-**


After additional discussion, Gary Girtton made the motion to adjourn. Michael Wickersham seconded the motion. All aye votes cast. Motion carried.

Reviewed and signed this 15th day of July, 2013.  
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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ATTEST:   
Mary Ann Lenkensdöfer, Auditor of Randolph County