Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of Jefferson County

Meeting Summary – November 13, 2025
Location: American Legion
Start Time: 5:33 pm
Attendees:

- Kevin Gatewood (Chairman, DAV Delegate)
- David Nesbitt (DAV Alternate)
- Ryan Shirts (Waltonville Delegate, VFW Post)
- Gary Reynolds (Ambits, Waltonville Delegate)
- Zach Brooks (VFW Mount Vernon Alternate)
- Robert White (VFW Delegate)
- Other potential delegates and alternates referenced

---

1. Attendance and Organization Status

- Attendance tracked via sign-in sheet; verbal roll call omitted.
- Official titles per sample bylaws, but final bylaws not yet adopted.
- Delegates and alternates from DAV, VFW, and American Legion posts present or referenced.
- Not all posts had delegates present (notably, the American Legion delegate absent; alternate arrangements discussed).

---

2. Main Topics Discussed

A. Organizational Formation and Bylaws

- Bylaws not yet finalized; sample bylaws currently being reviewed.
- Commitment to revisit the bylaws at the next meeting with all members to provide input.
- Acknowledgment that amendments can be made as necessary once the commission's operations become clearer.

B. Budget Preparation and Presentation

- Budget drafted by Bob and circulated prior to the meeting for review.
- Debate about the inclusion of facilities costs ($20,000) in the budget:
  - Statute requires the county to provide funding for office space and necessary supplies, over and above the percentage allocation.
  - Clarification: Presented budget is for benchmarking; numbers are subject to adjustment.
- Discussion about how budget numbers were determined—reflects both research and estimated needs, gives the county a full picture in case rental space is required.
- Announcement that the county would run the budget through its treasurer’s office, so all expenditures will have oversight.

- Salaries and office expenses outlined, with the belief that initial numbers may be high—preferred to overstate rather than understate.

County Relationship and Financial Procedures

- Commissioners shared frustration with the lack of clear communication from the county board chairman regarding budget inclusion.
- Reference to recent (October 7th, 2025) legal decision from Sangamon County:
  - Counties have oversight of VAC funds.
  - They must provide adequate funding, but not necessarily through automatic property tax appropriation.
  - Budget benchmarks serve as a guide to needs; actual appropriations might vary.
- Discussion around needing both a primary (county) and secondary (board/fundraising) account for transparency and clarity.
- Process for veteran emergency assistance clarified:
  - Concern raised that county board procedures could delay urgent help.
  - Commissioners stressed the importance of efficiency and autonomy in handling vet needs.

Points of Disagreement with County Board

- Commissioners expressed betrayal and frustration after being told no budget allocation would be included due to their absence at a previous meeting (at the board chair's suggestion not to attend).
- Concerns raised over political and bureaucratic hurdles, with examples from other counties' handling.

Key Figures:

- Proposed property tax allocation for Veterans Assistance is about $114,000 (0.02–0.03% of budget), county budget is ~$10 million.
- Proposed annual budget (sampled): up to $170,000.
- Training budget recommended at $3,000–$5,000; DAV certification is covered, VFW training discussed (with some county budgets up to $10,000 for training).

C. County Oversight and Legal Framework

- Summary of Sangamon County lawsuit:
  - County board retains control and oversight; VAC cannot unilaterally disburse funds.
  - This decision is not binding precedent in Jefferson County; only appellate/Supreme Court decisions carry statewide precedent.
- Commissioners agreed Jefferson County's situation, politics, and government structure (township form) differs significantly from counties like Williamson.
- Legal requirements:
  - State law mandates the county to fund the VAC.
  - Any pushback could reflect poorly on the county in public opinion.
- Mention of pending House Bill 1352:
  - Would allow counties under 60,000 population to form multicounty commissions, possibly changing funding structure and incentives.
  - Jefferson's current population: about 38,000 (Mount Vernon at ~13,500).

D. Advocacy and Strategy Toward County Board

- Unified stance that commissioners want to maintain professionalism and transparency, but will be assertive if met with resistance.
- Planned outreach to county board members:
  - Strategy of “whip counting” supportive votes, especially among veteran board members.
  - Voter and public awareness to be leveraged if county shows resistance.
- Target to present the petition and budget at the November 24th county board meeting at 7:00pm, at the courthouse basement.
- Discussion on ADA accessibility of the meeting space.

E. Petitions, Documents, and Administrative Details

- Petition for official recognition and appropriation is ready; requires signatures from delegates (primary or alternates if necessary).
- Plan to circulate the petition for signatures before the upcoming board meeting.
- DAV28.org website referenced as a resource for sample documents, county precedents, bylaws, and other materials; commissioners encouraged to review and provide feedback.
- VFW post consolidation status discussed for delegate representation.
- Operational plans to handle budgets, accounts, and possible office locations were outlined.

F. Office Space and Facilities

- County responsible for providing office infrastructure per statute.
- Possible donated office space, including by veteran organizations or supporters, discussed.
  - Examples from other counties cited.
- Exploration of county-owned facilities versus privately donated space.

G. Training and Equipment

- Need for sufficient training funds (between $3,000–$5,000) acknowledged, with flexibility in shifting funds among budget categories.
- Emphasis on one-time costs versus recurring costs, such as computers and office equipment.

---

3. Action Items

1. **Budget Finalization and Submission**
   - Finalize and format the sample budget; ensure clarity on facilities and line items.
   - Adjust training budget as discussed (raise to $3,000–$5,000).
   - Mark budget as “Sample”; ready for submission to the county board.
2. **Petition for Recognition and Appropriation**
   - Collect signatures from all appropriate delegates/alternates before November 24th.
   - Hard copy and/or DocuSign method discussed for signatures.
3. **County Board Meeting Preparation**
   - Present both petition and sample budget at November 24th meeting, 7:00pm at the courthouse.
   - Coordinate attendance and outreach; inform/support constituent board members.

- Assign organizational representatives for each major veterans' group to ensure turnout.

4. **Review of Documents**
   - All members to review the recognition and appropriation petition document on DAV28.org—prioritize this over other documents.
   - Suggest edits or comments before next meeting.
5. **Logistics and Outreach**
   - Confirm post delegate/alternate status, particularly for VFW and American Legion.
   - Continual outreach to board members; "whip count" support in advance of board vote.
   - Help other organizations establish effective communication (texting program offered).
6. **Next Meeting Scheduling and Agenda**
   - Emergency meeting set for November 19th, 6:00pm (1800), before board meeting.
   - Agenda: collect signatures, finalize bylaws, operational planning, assign responsibilities.
7. **Office Space Search**
   - Continue seeking donated or available office space for commission.
   - Explore possibility of space in the VA clinic (subject to IDVA and clinic manager approval).

---

4. Follow-Up Points & Future Business

- **Bylaws:** Review and bring proposed amendments to the emergency November 19th meeting; aim for speedy adoption post-county approval.
- **Final Preparation for Board Meeting:** All forms, signatures, and delegate statuses to be confirmed by November 19.
- **Post-Merger Issues:** Track VFW post consolidation progress; adjust delegate assignments as necessary upon official changes.
- **Training:** Revisit training budget in light of additional input and secure necessary certifications for all service officers.
- **Population/Demographic Data:** Keep updated data handy for discussions about House Bill 1352 or multicounty commission options.
- **Legal Monitoring:** Monitor outcomes of any Sangamon County appeals and House Bill 1352's progress.
- **Outreach/Communication:** Establish regular communications among member organizations, potentially using texting programs.
- **Physical Accessibility:** Check ADA compliance of board meeting location, especially for delegates needing accessible entry.

---

5. Decisions/Votes

- Roll call vote taken to approve the proposed (sample) budget for submission to the county board; **unanimously approved** by all present delegates.
- Determined that petition signatures, not a formal vote, signify the organization's official request.

---

6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved by all present.

Next Key Dates:

- **November 19, 2025, 6:00pm:** Emergency Commission Meeting (signatures, bylaws)
- **November 24, 2025, 7:00pm:** County Board Meeting (petition and budget presentation)

Prepared by: [In-room Note Taker]
Date: November 13, 2025

Transcript

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:01)
All right, so we're at the American Legion, it's 5:33 and we're about to begin the Veterans Affairs Assistance Commission. Jefferson County Assistance Commission meeting. Right.

Kevin Gatewood (0:09)
Yes.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:10)
Okay. Excellent.

Zach Brooks (0:14)
Veterans Assistance Commission of Jefferson County.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:17)
Veterans Assistance of. Commission of Jefferson County. VAC of JC V A C JC man, that could be fun.

Zach Brooks (0:26)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:27)
Okay.

Gary Reynolds (0:28)
But it's better that way. It's not confused as. As a Jefferson county government.

Zach Brooks (0:34)
Yeah. Part of the affiliation with them.

Gary Reynolds (0:36)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:36)
Right. So should we sound off as to who's present?

Zach Brooks (0:42)
Nah, we got.

Kevin Gatewood (0:43)
He's got the attendance sheet.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:44)
Well, he does, but this thing's going to summarize it for him. So we have Kevin Gatewood, who's.

Zach Brooks (0:48)
We could do that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:49)
What is. You're the chairman, right? Is that your official title?

Zach Brooks (0:52)
That's what we're calling in the bylaws.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:54)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (0:55)
Right now.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (0:55)
But we don't have bylaws yet.

Zach Brooks (0:57)
No, we just have a sample. So we'll probably. I'm thinking our next get together, this.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:04)
One have the violence.

Zach Brooks (1:05)
We're going to talk about the budget, the budget thing real quick. And then the next one, we'll see if we can. I haven't had time to really go through and look at. I did the first time I went through and went through the whole thing that. And threw out stuff, put in stuff. So I've been through it once, but I'm gonna go through it again. Hopefully everybody else will take a look at it before we meet again and we can always amend it later. It's not that big a deal. You know, we don't really know what we're getting into yet. I guess as far as here, I'll start by saying Kevin Gatewood for DAV.

Kevin Gatewood (1:40)
Delegate David Nesbitt, DAV Alternate Ryan Shirts.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:46)
Waltonville delegate for VFW Post Gary Reynolds.

Gary Reynolds (1:50)
Ambits, Waltonville Delegate Zach Brooks, VFW Mount.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:56)
Vernon Alternative Robert White, VFW delegate.

Zach Brooks (2:04)
All right. Like I said, we're not going to do too much tonight. Did anybody look at the. The budget that Bob prepared and circulated?

Gary Reynolds (2:18)
I looked a bunch. I got a question. We got facilities. It looks like it's going to be about $20,000. And according to the ILS statute, the way I read it, sub paragraph E, the county should provide all the funding for the office and all necessary furnishing, supplies and services.

Zach Brooks (2:42)
Right.

Gary Reynolds (2:42)
Over and above our point.03%. So why is it in our budget when it should be in the county's budget?

Zach Brooks (2:49)
Well, that is all county budget. Our budget is that.

Gary Reynolds (2:53)
Okay?

Zach Brooks (2:54)
They provide all that Money, Okay?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (2:56)
We're just giving them a benchmark. None of these numbers. How about we back up and I'll tell you where I got this from?

Kevin Gatewood (3:03)
Okay.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (3:03)
Pull them right out of my butt, just to be honest with you. No, But I did do some research. I took a look at what? The average starting or the salary range for the superintendent. Oh, brother. You're fine. No, but I put everything in, because if the county doesn't have room, they're going to have to rent us a space. Yeah. So that's why I put it in that way they can see that. So the big argument, and this is why we're doing this, I feel. Honestly, I feel betrayed by the chairman of the board because I've been in discussions with him. I even told you guys at the last meeting, hey, they said we didn't need to show up. We'll talk about it in January. And in their meeting, they explicitly stated, well, they're not here, so we're not going to put them in our budget. They said that. And so the excuse was, well, there's a lawsuit with Sangamon County. I said, okay, what's that got to do with us? Well, we need to see how it ends. And I said, no, no, we don't. This is Jefferson County. I said, but tell me what the concern is, because I knew what it was, but I wanted him to tell me. Well, supposedly, there's some kind of fraud or something going on within the Sangamon county group. Right. Okay. Again, that's Sangamon County. We're going to be very transparent. As a matter of fact, talking with Kevin, I'm prepared if everybody agrees and talking to them, or actually, when we go see them, they've got three veterans that serve on the county board. One of them needs to be tasked with attending these meetings so that the county has representation here. I don't have a problem with it, and I don't think any of you guys do.

Kevin Gatewood (4:28)
That's in, of course, with the statute.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:30)
And I'm all good with it.

Gary Reynolds (4:32)
Yes, they can come. They just can't vote.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:35)
Exactly. But they should be here.

Kevin Gatewood (4:36)
They should, but they.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:38)
What?

Kevin Gatewood (4:38)
They must be a veteran in order to go.

Gary Reynolds (4:41)
Yeah, Washington county never did that, but.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:43)
We didn't have a problem.

Gary Reynolds (4:45)
They already had money locked away. They just didn't know how to use it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:49)
Sure.

Gary Reynolds (4:50)
And.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:51)
And our county never has any money, so that's what they say. Well, yeah, that's true now.

Kevin Gatewood (4:57)
Better than that used to be.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (4:58)
Where's that weed money at?

Kevin Gatewood (5:02)
That's in the city.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (5:06)
It's county. County gets 3%. City's now getting 3%.

Gary Reynolds (5:10)
Back then I went right to the treasurer's office and since I work for the county, they gave me the information right off the start.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (5:17)
Nice. No problem.

Gary Reynolds (5:18)
Here it is. It's a line item. It's in our budget and well, we just don't know how to use it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (5:24)
To be clear, we have a good county and we have a good treasurer. Again, I don't know what the issue was. I don't know what the thinking is, because even emailing with or texting with them back and forth, it was a passive aggressive. I shared it with you, Kevin, you know, was like, yeah, we're all on board. No, we have concerns. Oh, well, we need to see this. And you know, it's like you're not asking us anything. Kevin and I went, met with him in good faith, discussed all this and asked him point blank, what do you need from us, man? Anything you need, we'll tell you.

Kevin Gatewood (5:54)
Right?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (5:55)
Nothing. He's not reached out to me and he's not reached out to Kevin. Has he reached out to anybody else? I know you get to use his office because he was nice enough to let us have it, but twice a month to do veteran service calls. But still.

Ryan Shirts (6:07)
Yeah, it's. He's not. I haven't seen him in a while, but it's.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (6:12)
Just political.

Zach Brooks (6:13)
Unlit show.

Ryan Shirts (6:14)
Now they finally. The decision was rendered October 7th, but they finally made it public not too long ago. And it's. Counties have oversight.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (6:25)
That the counties have oversight. We don't have a problem with that. If they're giving us money, they have every right to know and see what the money is.

Ryan Shirts (6:32)
They're not technical.

Zach Brooks (6:33)
It's.

Kevin Gatewood (6:34)
There's oversight and there's control.

Zach Brooks (6:36)
They.

Ryan Shirts (6:37)
We make recommendations, then they have control.

Kevin Gatewood (6:41)
Not oversight.

Ryan Shirts (6:42)
It's oversight of the funds. Well, they still have to provide the funds.

Gary Reynolds (6:46)
The statute says that they still will actually running our budget through the treasurer's office. So they'll have oversight. Yeah, they'll be able to see.

Ryan Shirts (6:57)
So this is from the decision specifically made up by the court. The court determined that section 2.1B of the MVAA does not require counties to automatically appropriate 0.02%.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (7:11)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (7:12)
Yeah. They don't have to automatically still have to provide that amount of money where they're a new appropriation.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (7:20)
And that's why we have a budget.

Zach Brooks (7:22)
If they got plenty of money, they don't have to appropriate, but they got that percentage or that amount of their budget is earmarked for this?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (7:32)
No, no, no, no, no, it's not. No, I've read into this now because I had to get myself educated. And he just told you that. That. That property tax levy. That's just. If they need the money to provide to us. That's not our budget. That's not the limit. That's the actual floor. If you want to. If you want to know the truth. And again, I don't even know if we need that much money. We won't know until we're through a year with this. That's why they should have representation at our meetings if they want to see our budget anytime. Seriously, are any of us opposed to sharing our budget with them?

Kevin Gatewood (8:03)
I'm not exactly.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (8:07)
Except for our other account when we do fundraising, that's another concern.

Gary Reynolds (8:10)
That's separate.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (8:12)
It's exactly.

Kevin Gatewood (8:13)
Well, there's board funds, there's county funds. That's why we said we're going to have two separate ones.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (8:17)
Well, it took a while, but Zach finally convinced me on that point.

Ryan Shirts (8:22)
I try not to be an asshole, but when it comes to the stuff, I have no. No affiliations with this county. I've got my own opinions on all of it from past dealings with public officials and everything else. But just like I said with this, and it came to fruition.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (8:46)
But they have to allow us to form. They have to provide funds. How they provide the funds is what was in question. Still don't care. They have to provide the funds.

Kevin Gatewood (8:56)
Am I wrong?

Ryan Shirts (8:57)
No, that wasn't what was in question. The question that Sangamon county brought up was, do they have access to this minimum amount to use for other things?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (9:12)
No.

Ryan Shirts (9:13)
To use as an organization. The answer to that is no.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (9:22)
See, that doesn't make sense. That's in direct contact.

Gary Reynolds (9:26)
Who doesn't have access to the money?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (9:28)
The vac.

Ryan Shirts (9:30)
We now have to go. Our primary account is moot now. The secondary account. Yes, Primary account. We don't need it because we don't even need. We need to vote for what we give out, and then we have to approach the county, and then they have.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (9:50)
To allocate and they are obligated to pay for. According to the state statute.

Ryan Shirts (9:56)
We make recommendations, and that is exactly what.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (10:00)
So when we have a veteran in need, we're going to wait a month for these idiots up at the county board to vote on this? No, it's not happening.

Ryan Shirts (10:06)
According to.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (10:07)
I don't care. I don't care. That judge can come down here and answer to us.

Kevin Gatewood (10:11)
I don't care.

Zach Brooks (10:12)
This wasn't the statute. This is a judge's interpretation.

Ryan Shirts (10:15)
Yeah. All these activist judges, the Sangamon county bac, sued Sangamon county because they weren't allocating funds appropriately, or what they thought was not appropriately. And they were withholding $1.2 million is what it was. They weren't getting that. It was the minimum amount. They weren't getting it. They sued and Sangamon county said sided with the county and that they should have oversight of all folks funds allocated by it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (10:49)
So have they appealed this?

Ryan Shirts (10:52)
No, this just came out.

Zach Brooks (10:55)
Difficult to win a case against the county or city or any entity.

Kevin Gatewood (11:01)
But you're using a state statute.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (11:03)
Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (11:03)
The state said this is what's going to work.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (11:05)
We're not fighting anybody.

Zach Brooks (11:07)
Judges work. Some of them work for the county that they.

Kevin Gatewood (11:10)
That's what I'm saying. I think there should be an appeal because.

Ryan Shirts (11:15)
It'S a VFW attorney.

Zach Brooks (11:17)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (11:18)
And again, that's a lawsuit between them. There's no. You can try to use it as precedent. But does this county board really want to go against veterans? Is that their goal? Do they not like veterans? Do they not support veterans? No. No. Because that's going to be the question posed to them. If they give us any pushback, that's fine. If y' all don't like us and you don't celebrate freedom, that's fine. Every voter in this damn county needs to know who you are and where you stand.

Kevin Gatewood (11:46)
There's differences from county to county, too. And it's a preference of our county in our case.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (11:51)
Absolutely.

Ryan Shirts (11:51)
What did our county just try to do to us?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (11:54)
But I don't know. I. No, now wait a minute. Wait a minute. Now. Let me just speak to this, because I know this, okay? This is my background. I was county board chairman for six years here. Trust me when I tell you this. I guarantee you 10 of those board members don't even really understand what's going on here. They don't know that there's any state statute. They don't know anything. And I can promise you we're going to have quite a few veterans showing up to this meeting. They're not going to go against us. If you think these guys are in lockstep, you need to be at this meeting, man, because you're going to be amazed. That's not how that will.

Ryan Shirts (12:26)
But here.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (12:27)
So.

Ryan Shirts (12:28)
Exactly.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (12:29)
I don't.

Ryan Shirts (12:30)
I don't think they're going to go necessarily against it, but. And I legitimately hope I'm wrong.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (12:36)
Sure.

Ryan Shirts (12:36)
But exactly what's going to happen is we're going to get there, we're going to have a show of force. This is turning very, very, very quickly into Williamson counties. This what's going to happen is they're going to have a show of force and then the county board is going to exercise one of their three options and then they're going to bring it to the county, to the constituents and that's going to elongate.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (13:01)
Okay. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. But, but the only reason they have to go to the constituents is if they want to put this as a property tax line item and they don't want to vote on it. They want the voters to decide. Right. That's irrelevant. By state statute they still have to fund us. Whether they have a line item off property tax bill is irrelevant because we can exceed that amount and they're obligated to pay based on the state statute.

Ryan Shirts (13:27)
But they can also put it at a future meeting. There's nothing in there that dictates the county has to do it with the in a timely manner. They just have to do it. So they're going to put it out.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (13:39)
But they have to have a reason why they won't. That's the point.

Ryan Shirts (13:43)
I'm not saying that they won't. What I'm saying right now is they're going to bring it to a future vote next year because they want to allocate it not in this budget and.

Kevin Gatewood (13:54)
Not spend the money this year.

Ryan Shirts (13:55)
They're not going to want to allocate.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (13:56)
It in this budget cuz they don't support Veterans 2027. Again, let's get to the point. I don't care. And again, because they hate veterans because that's what they're going to be labeled as. If they want to go against this. This, this has already been instituted in several counties in the state and it's working just fine. Except for. Let me

guess, how does Sangamon vote? Oh, very much Democrat. So I'm going to tell you right now they've got a more sympathetic ear and judge in that county because of that. This is a red, red county. Washington county, very red county. You guys have no issues over there. I haven't heard anything negative about Marion county or Franklin county, anybody. Hell, even Belleville, the St. Clair County. I've not heard anything negative out of that one either. Have you?

Zach Brooks (14:39)
Well, Franklin county drug it out for two or three years.

Ryan Shirts (14:45)
Williamson county is exactly. That is the stepping off point of danger. Not do Williamson county did exactly, exactly what you're proposing and force Their self in and drug the county board through everything.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (15:04)
Sure.

Ryan Shirts (15:05)
They are not liked. They are not getting supported.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (15:08)
And right now we're not liked in getting supported right now. Zach, what makes you think being acquiescence is going to get us any further with these cats? We don't back down. I don't back down to nobody what.

Zach Brooks (15:22)
Their state of mind is.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (15:23)
Yeah.

Gary Reynolds (15:26)
There was another. I'll have to look it up. There was another. Two other court cases that I gave to Washington County I didn't bring. It's probably in the email I sent with all those that I sent you. That mass email. There's a file in there showing where they went, different county went. They had the same problem and the judge was 180, you know, from what Sang means got. He said, basically you're going to do it and you're going to provide the funds and basically just do it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (16:05)
And again, if we file suit in this county, we'll win.

Gary Reynolds (16:09)
So.

Kevin Gatewood (16:10)
Well, I think our approach has got to be pointed.

Gary Reynolds (16:16)
We need to go in there with.

Kevin Gatewood (16:18)
Keeping the best relations.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (16:19)
We can Absolutely be polite and professional. Exactly. And again, we invited Cliff Linman to a lunch, or not even a lunch, just coffee, to discuss all this. We asked them, is there any concerns? Is there anything you want to see different? We need to work with them. Even if they hate our guts, we got to work with them. It doesn't matter. I'm with you 100%. I'm just telling you right now, the man misled us. But you know what? I'm just going to say he lied. He lied to my face. He lied to his face. That's a problem. Voters need to know about this because you can't run your county with somebody who's going to be a coward, tell you what you want to say to your face or tell you what you want to hear to your face and then go around and have a meeting and tell people, no, you don't need to

show up. We'll discuss this later. Knowing damn well what the reason was. He didn't share any of that. Come on. Cowards act that way. And you asked about the pointed thing. I'm sorry, Zach, this county board, you have to be pointed with them. I'm telling you right now, they're not.

Zach Brooks (17:18)
Gonna do it for us on their own. No, you have to make it happen.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (17:23)
And we will.

Zach Brooks (17:25)
Just can't sit around, wait for them to do it.

Ryan Shirts (17:27)
I'm not saying anything about that.

Zach Brooks (17:29)
Right.

Ryan Shirts (17:30)
It's saying there's a way to do it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (17:32)
And so what's that way.

Ryan Shirts (17:34)
Force it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (17:35)
Okay. What's that way?

Ryan Shirts (17:36)
The best way is we go through it and we do it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (17:41)
Nice.

Ryan Shirts (17:42)
And if I need to, like I've already said, I already have the attorney general himself, through his military board that has said if I need it to let him know.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (17:58)
Sure.

Ryan Shirts (17:59)
So I'm not gonna. I'm going to.

Kevin Gatewood (18:01)
No.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (18:02)
God, no. We don't need to drag him in yet.

Ryan Shirts (18:04)
You can be nice and you can do it where they make it, think where they have the option and manipulate it through conversations that you're kind of feeding it as an option and you're feeding all this info to them and let them make the decision. And ultimately, if they force themselves where they do what I think they're going to do and put it out till 20, 27, then we force it in there and say, hey, this is our only option, the nuclear option. Do you want them to come down and possibly what they're going to do and look at everything in your budget and all the allocations you've made and.

Kevin Gatewood (18:48)
They force you to do back viewers?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (18:51)
Well, there's a couple other things that they don't want to get exposed. Trust me on this. I've got information. I'm not. I'm not going to threaten anybody, but I'm telling things.

Kevin Gatewood (19:02)
They don't want to see the light of day.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (19:04)
Exactly. And it wouldn't be good for them if it did. There'd be some people that get in a lot of trouble. I'm not interested in fighting with them. I'm not interested in browbeating them. But the statute's clearly on our side. Activist judge in Sangamon county be damned. We still have legislation that says we can form it, that the county has to financially support it, and if they don't.

Gary Reynolds (19:26)
Actually, under the statute, any post commander can draw funds from the county and the state's attorney has to make them do it. Like, I could draw money, say I need 500 for this guy, and it'd be drawn out. But the state attorney has to tell the county, you don't want to do it.

Kevin Gatewood (19:47)
Tough.

Gary Reynolds (19:48)
This is law. So, I mean, I would rather get cooperation. Agree nicely. Hey, this is what we think we're gonna need.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (19:56)
But my challenge is, Zach, that they've already shot. They've already fired a shot across the bow by playing this game. And I don't know if it's a they or if it's a him, but I think we're gonna find out come their board meeting because they're gonna have to Address it. You're gonna have too many guys in there wearing service caps to have them say, well, we'll defer this. It's not going to happen, I promise.

Kevin Gatewood (20:21)
When's this meeting?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (20:22)
24. Yeah, we're going to start getting the word out. You've got 7pm in the county. Yes.

Zach Brooks (20:29)
So I'm taking care of the dav.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (20:31)
I already saw that. Yep.

Zach Brooks (20:32)
And I'm gonna send another reminder that day, like I do for the meetings where I told him about it. The meeting. And I want to help the other organizations be the same. Same thing. The texting kind of got you started on it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (20:46)
Yeah.

Zach Brooks (20:47)
And I'd like to help the other organizations as well. That. That's very effective. 24.

Gary Reynolds (20:54)
So what time?

Zach Brooks (20:55)
7:00Pm 7:00pm.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:00)
No, no, no. The courthouse in the basement and see who's post commander for dab. I forget his name.

Zach Brooks (21:06)
Harry Le.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:07)
Yeah, Harry. Can't wait for Harry to try and make it into that county boardroom. That's another problem they've got. It's not ADA compatible.

Kevin Gatewood (21:14)
Right.

Zach Brooks (21:15)
It is now. They got a new ramp out there. I don't know if you can get to the basement, though.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:19)
See, that's the thing. I don't think you can. You gotta use that electric chair to go down to the basement.

Kevin Gatewood (21:26)
I don't know if the elevator goes to the base, Ryan.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:28)
It doesn't. No. I tried to get that fixed and people got mad. I was gonna spend some money and they didn't want to.

Kevin Gatewood (21:34)
I know it goes to the basement, but you can't get anywhere from the section it drops you in.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:38)
No, it takes you into the sally port.

Kevin Gatewood (21:40)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (21:40)
And the basement's like a. I don't know, five feet taller than the sally port. It's weird.

Zach Brooks (21:45)
Once we're done with our business, we're going to take care of. I was going to go through that texting program with you and anybody else wants to get on in on that, we can do that real quick. If you got a little bit of time staying, go over that. Maybe 10 minutes or 15 minutes. We do need to get to this, though.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (22:04)
Yep.

Zach Brooks (22:06)
I'll start by saying I studied it. I think it's perfect. As long as you know the numbers for the payroll tax. I know the Social Security and all that stuff is a certain percent. As long as you kind of did your homework on those, those numbers are in the ballpark.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (22:25)
And some of that may change, too. See, here's the other challenge, Zach, that I'll tell you. If the county really wants to take control of this, as you're suggesting, the problem becomes the superintendent, becomes a county employee. County employee, and then we're a co. Employer with the county board. I can tell you right now that's not a good thing. It's not a good thing for anybody, even the employee. It's not a good thing.

Gary Reynolds (22:45)
There's over 50 counties that got a vac already in that state, already operating, and not one of them is the superintendent hired by the county. It's. Everything's under the vac.

Ryan Shirts (22:59)
No, it wouldn't be a county.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (23:03)
If they take full control. If they take full control of the budget, they have to.

Ryan Shirts (23:07)
They wouldn't have full control of the budget. They just. Like I said, we. We make up the commission, but they have to be the ones that allocate it and say, yes, we just like a sergeant major put it that way. A sergeant major goes in and makes a recommendation to. To the commander. That commander has final proving. We are the sergeant majors. We are the advisors.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (23:34)
Right?

Ryan Shirts (23:35)
He is the commander. The county is the commander.

Kevin Gatewood (23:38)
Right.

Ryan Shirts (23:38)
He has final say.

Kevin Gatewood (23:39)
They signed the paper.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (23:39)
No, they don't have the fun to say that's the problem.

Ryan Shirts (23:42)
They don't have to justify it too.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (23:44)
That's fine to their point.

Ryan Shirts (23:46)
Point. If it's justified or not, they can say no. They can turn us down.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (23:50)
They can. But they're going to lose. It may take a month, it may take 10 years, but they'll lose. And they'll lose in the court of public opinion. That's.

Zach Brooks (24:00)
That's the big thing they're involved in, as far as I understand it, is they have to pay the bills for this. They have to write the check.

Gary Reynolds (24:08)
The 3% is the minimum as long as we can justified.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (24:15)
They're saying our portion of a property tax levy, which they don't have to do. They don't have to levy that property tax. They can pay it out of other funds, but our budget will exceed what they're claiming is that line item, which would be about 114,000. Is that what I shared with you? Yeah. So. And again, I don't know if we'll touch that budget or not. Talking with Zach, I asked for his input. Some of the numbers might be a little high here, a little low there, but like five grand a month towards veterans assistance. We might not spend but 500 bucks a month. I mean, don't know until we go.

Kevin Gatewood (24:48)
Through a year what the need shows up to.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (24:50)
Exactly.

Kevin Gatewood (24:50)
You may have someone that's more than others.

Ryan Shirts (24:54)
Dead of summer and dead of winter.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (24:57)
Utility bills and transportation.

Zach Brooks (25:00)
And the veteran organizations can also volunteer to chip in on emergencies because we do that anyhow, but only from people we connect with. And this will be a centralized location come into to see about getting help. And then the superintendent could call or whatever, text the other organization, say, would you guys have a couple hundred bucks you could spare this guy?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (25:24)
And ultimately that would be the goal too.

Zach Brooks (25:26)
Right.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (25:26)
You know, if the county only has to pay for office space and the superintendent and the organizations take care of everything else, I'm not opposed to that. I don't think anybody else is. Right. But if we need some help and they're required to help, then I'm glad we have them as a backstop.

Zach Brooks (25:41)
With DAV and our bylaws and our charter, we have to provide for veterans and their families in need. So if we have money and there's veterans in need or family, we have to give it up. I'm not sure about the other organizations, but it's true. Yeah.

Gary Reynolds (26:02)
Those funds would be separate count, separate account, separate budget, separate everything. I suppose we just taking providing budget to the county and just see what they're going to do.

Zach Brooks (26:15)
Right.

Kevin Gatewood (26:15)
I'd slap the word sample across the thing and send it in because nothing's official yet. We don't have. Don't.

Gary Reynolds (26:21)
Quite a battle. We don't. We don't have.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (26:23)
Yeah. This is our proposed budget.

Zach Brooks (26:25)
Right.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (26:25)
And again, you can prorate it too because our goal is to be up and running in January. But if we don't get up and running until March because of us, then they can knock off two twelfths of that and that's out of three twelfths because their budget starts December 1st.

Zach Brooks (26:40)
$170,000 isn't much money in the county's overall budget.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (26:45)
They've got a 10 million dollar budget.

Zach Brooks (26:47)
It's not that big a deal.

Kevin Gatewood (26:49)
You say there's 166,000 or something.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (26:53)
114 is, is the, what is it? 2% property tax line item they can impose. If you go to three, you got to have voter approval. Does that sound right or is it 3% and anything above that.

Ryan Shirts (27:05)
0.02% is the baseline. It rounds up to 3. So everybody says 0.03.

Zach Brooks (27:11)
Okay, but it's 0.02 and some change.0289. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (27:15)
Okay, but yeah, that's, it's.

Zach Brooks (27:20)
If it's over that, I think that's where you have to go. A referendum.

Kevin Gatewood (27:24)
Then they have to do a referendum.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (27:26)
But again.

Zach Brooks (27:27)
But they don't have to.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (27:28)
But again that's up to them to do any of that. That's. I made the mistake of telling Cliff, I said then fine, we're going to show up Thursday and or November's meeting. We're going to present you. Because I looked at their timelines that we're still within their timelines. They may not like it, but we are. Okay. That's up to them to deal with, not us. That's their issue, not ours. And again, unless they have a good reason to not approve this brother, it's going to be tough for them to not approve this.

Ryan Shirts (27:57)
The one thing that I don't know if you all are aware of or not, but I'm hoping they're ignorant of is House Bill 1352, which is currently going through and scheduled to be before the Christmas break, which veto session. Yeah, I can see them leaning to if they know it. But that one specifically is an amendment to the bac. One that is for counties that reside adjacent to each other. They can come in together and instead of one county funding it, they can create a multi county vac.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (28:37)
Sure.

Ryan Shirts (28:38)
So Jefferson county, if they don't want to go this route, they can provide much less funds in a multi county vac as opposed to funding this.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (28:49)
Well, Washington County's up and running, Franklin County's up and running, Marion County's up and running. The only one we don't know is Hamilton County. Do they have one? That would be the only county.

Kevin Gatewood (29:02)
The next question is based on that legislation, does the VAC have to come together and go to the both pool boards or do the boards decide amongst themselves they're going to become in a.

Ryan Shirts (29:13)
Resident or in a county? The way it reads, currently two organizations from neighboring counties can come together and create it. But if we do it here and Franklin county already has theirs, currently they can say, okay, they're wanting to create this one. We don't have the funds because we have less than 60,000 residents. Which the bill, Alex, specifically states if a county has less than 60,000 residents.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (29:42)
They can do this on this proposed legislation.

Kevin Gatewood (29:46)
Proposed legislation?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (29:47)
Yeah.

Ryan Shirts (29:47)
I mean this is already passed. It's in assignments currently. Like it's.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (29:52)
But it still has to be voted on. We still have time to call people.

Ryan Shirts (29:55)
Yeah, but that specifically states if they have lessons 60,000 residents in a single county, they can join another county.

Kevin Gatewood (30:03)
What is our population? Jefferson County.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (30:07)
No, no, no. Last I saw we were at 38. 38, yeah. But it's probably down from that because Mount Vernon, they always say it's got 15. Last I heard we're at 13 five.

Zach Brooks (30:20)
City to the county.

Ryan Shirts (30:21)
That's why this one.

Gary Reynolds (30:22)
Don't you have the funds here? You could ask for county. You could, hey, can we join in?

Ryan Shirts (30:27)
So that's exactly why this one got proposed, is because the bigger counties were able to do it, but the smaller ones, that was. I forgot the percentage, but it's 94% of Illinois counties aren't able to financially support it. So they brought 1352 into the floor to say they can create a multi.

Gary Reynolds (30:47)
County and find the statute's going to read. It's not going to be determined by the county boards. It'll be determined by a VAC organization.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (30:57)
Yeah. Who's making that decision? So the other, the other point is too, does Jefferson county really want to be matched up with other people? Because I can tell you, we have the second Judicial Court and it's all based on population. We're one of us in Franklin county are pretty equally matched. But we were the two largest county of the 12 counties and involved in second judicial court, and we got stuck paying a big chunk of that bill. And all you

have to do is remind them you're the bigger dog in this smaller pond. Exactly. So rather than saving them money, it will cost them more money because now they're going to be subsidizing the smaller counties.

Gary Reynolds (31:36)
Washington county is under 60,000.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (31:39)
Washington County's got 8,000 people in the whole county, man. But you guys have good property tax.

Gary Reynolds (31:43)
We're up to 13,000 now.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (31:46)
But see, that's really.

Kevin Gatewood (31:47)
Yeah, that's, that's, that's a great, great, great example for them, though, if they decide that, well, we'll just join with Washington county because they're already up and running. Hey, but hang on. You're the bigger county now. You're going to be paying Washington county.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (31:58)
And Washington County's not afraid to spend some money. So they're going to be, they're going.

Kevin Gatewood (32:02)
Be here at the next meeting telling.

Gary Reynolds (32:04)
You how much you're spending money.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:06)
No, I tell you, the American Legion post over there is quite lovely.

Ryan Shirts (32:11)
So, for example, what was, who was the gentleman that was here last time that said he was never for this?

Zach Brooks (32:21)
Michael Hayden. What Legion.

Ryan Shirts (32:24)
What does he represent?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:25)
The Legion.

Ryan Shirts (32:26)
Is he the commander?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:28)
No. Yeah, no. Danny Dale's the post commander.

Zach Brooks (32:37)
So any.

Ryan Shirts (32:40)
Any post.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:42)
And they're all in support of this. I don't know about Mike. I can't speak for him.

Gary Reynolds (32:45)
Danny certainly is.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:46)
Huh?

Gary Reynolds (32:47)
Danny certainly is.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:48)
Yes, absolutely.

Ryan Shirts (32:49)
Any post or any delegate from the post can be the single post to say we want to Join and go to Cliff.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (32:58)
No, won't happen. You going to do that? I'm not going to do it. You going to do it? You got dav's not going to do it. American Legion's not.

Ryan Shirts (33:07)
You said this stuff wouldn't happen last time, what with the whole funding and you were against the bank account and everything because. Because you said it wouldn't happen and we wouldn't need it and it would create more. Where are we?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (33:22)
You know, that's fine. And that's fine. No, no, no. Even still, we can still get by on one account. You guys want to keep it separate because you want to protect the funds, that's fine. All I'm telling you is, you know, look, Zach, if you've got a better idea to pursue this and you want to negotiate with the county board, bring it up, man. Let's go. Tell me what. No, don't sit here and pick apart this stuff and try to be the wise one here. You better have an alternate solution. Okay, I'm not kissing nobody's ass because I don't have to. I've got state legislation says I don't have to. This isn't for me. I don't need it. I don't need any of this. None of it. I do very well on my own. I do this for my fellow veterans. And if somebody's going to get my way, brother, I'm going to roll them over.

Ryan Shirts (34:11)
You have to be cognizant of how we're portraying ourselves. We can go against legislation, we can rely on that all we want. That's personal. Perfectly fine. But at the end of the day, who are we impacting? Because if we go and push ourselves and we have to go, or let's.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (34:30)
Say I'm okay, fine, man, stop. You're hitting this. What's the alternative? Give me your plan. Tell me your plan. Don't worry about my plan. What's your plan?

Ryan Shirts (34:39)
Do this like I brought it up at the first meeting.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (34:43)
Just say it. Come on.

Ryan Shirts (34:45)
We need to go in there and be appease to them.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (34:50)
What do you mean, appease to them? Do I take a knee?

Ryan Shirts (34:52)
Hey, no, not by any means. We need to go to the next meeting. We need to say, hey, this is who we are. This is our president. This is. We need to make an introduction of it to each delegate. But at the same time, if we go in there and we force it down their throat, this is legislation. When we go to them and say, say, hey, this is what we're doing. This is our justification for It. This is the veteran that we're impacting. What reason would they have to say other than, hey, these guys shoved it down and I'm speaking from experience.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (35:27)
That's fine. That's fine. What, at what point did you think we were going to go in there and tell them you were going to pass this? That's not what I said. You just said, no. I did. No. The reason we're having a meeting here is because he fucked us around, okay? And he's going to answer for that. If you don't believe he should, that's your problem, not mine. What I'm going to tell you is no. I set up a budget because they said we didn't show up at that meeting because they aren't going to allocate anything because we didn't have a budget. We now have a budget and we're going to present it. I'm going to say it's my understanding that you all made the comment that you weren't going to support the VAC because we weren't present. We didn't have a budget. Well, now we're here and we have this budget. My next question would be. And I'm not going to say it, but I'm going to hold it. What I'm telling you is right now we're strategizing. I'm not saying we're going to go in there and set them on fire with this idea. That's not my point. But if they give us blowback, what do we do? If they say, no, we're not doing.

Ryan Shirts (36:19)
This, I'm just going to put it cut and dry right now.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (36:21)
There you go. Do it.

Ryan Shirts (36:22)
At the end of the day, who is the one that serves all of Southern Illinois currently with veterans and their needs? You're speaking to him on a daily basis. I get to see everybody from Belleville down from Paducah up to Evansville over. And I'm telling you right now, the exact county that did this is not getting supported when it comes to veterans needing. Williamson county did this exact thing where they relied on the legislation. The legislation. Legislation. And they pissed off the county and they are not getting support.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (36:58)
Let me ask you something. Let me ask you something. What's the difference between Williamson county and Jefferson County?

Ryan Shirts (37:11)
What's the difference?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (37:13)
Okay? There's a huge difference. How many county board members are in Williamson County.

Ryan Shirts (37:16)
It does.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (37:17)
The thing is, you don't understand your civics, man. Let me explain your cms. No, you don't. They are. They are not a township form of government. Correct. You guys all understand this, right? There's a huge difference. They control a lot more in Williamson County. They do. Our county board doesn't have the authority that Williamson county has because they're. God, what's the name of it? You know what I'm talking about.

Gary Reynolds (37:48)
They're not a township.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (37:50)
They're not township form of government.

Gary Reynolds (37:53)
I know the term, but I can't remember.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (37:55)
They don't have townships in Williamson County. We do. We've got all these layers of government.

Gary Reynolds (37:59)
They're more like a district.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (38:01)
Yeah. There's three of them and they're. They're voted in at large. These guys have much more power and authority. They've got a bigger budget even even though they're bigger. They would have a bigger budget even if they were evenly matched. Because of that, I agree with sex.

Gary Reynolds (38:13)
Not to go in.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (38:15)
No. God, no. I'm not interested in fighting, you know, threatening.

Gary Reynolds (38:18)
But just say, let's get the budget.

Zach Brooks (38:20)
Someone told you that we need to get a budget? Because if we don't, they're not going to talk about it. Basically.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (38:26)
They're still going to try and shoot us down.

Zach Brooks (38:28)
Right?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (38:29)
So here's.

Zach Brooks (38:29)
We're just being diligent in what we need to do. They say, give us a budget, we give you a budget.

Kevin Gatewood (38:36)
And even if they shoot it down, what to say?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (38:38)
Can we not maybe talk to them and see what we can agree upon? Well, this is. That's the whole point of this meeting. We're going to show up and whoever wants to speak is going to speak. He's the guy in charge. So I'm not speaking, just so you know. Okay? Not unless I'm asked to. But I'm going to tell you right now, you're correct. Hey, we're here. We heard that there was a meeting last month. We were told we didn't need to be here, and now it seems like we should have. We do have a budget and we'd like to share it with you because we are putting this together and here's why. This is what we're doing, right? We're serving veterans. The Illinois state legislation says that we have the ability to do that. We've got all these organizations signed up and we're ready to rock and roll with the budget.

Zach Brooks (39:21)
We also need to give them a petition. There's sample petitions on the website I got on there where the other counties do it. We present them with petition signed by the representative organizations.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (39:33)
Okay?

Zach Brooks (39:34)
And that initiates the process. Here's our. Here's our budget. We don't need to speak or anything. We just need to show up and monitor them and watch what they're doing. Yeah, we need to be looking over their shoulder to see what you're doing with this petition and this budget. And then the public will know we're there as well as the board.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (39:54)
Right. Watching commission style government.

Zach Brooks (39:57)
We're not cramming anything down any by stove. We're saying pursuant to this statute, we're petitioning for a

Veterans Assistance Commission, Jefferson county, and this is the budget we need, so. And then we put the ball in their court, see what they do.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (40:12)
And here's the other thing. How many board members are. Anybody know? There's 13. There's 13. So what do we got to do? We got to get seven people to agree to this, right? Who's your county board rep? I have no idea. You don't know who's got Waltonville? It used to be what's his face. Noel Jeffrey. Yeah. Jeff Knowles. Yeah, I don't think it's him. No, it's not Williams or something like that. Yeah, you just got to reach out to that young guy.

Kevin Gatewood (40:44)
My cousin's on the board.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (40:46)
Who's that?

Kevin Gatewood (40:46)
John Howard.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (40:48)
Reach out to John.

Kevin Gatewood (40:49)
He's all for reds, I guarantee you that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (40:51)
But reach out to him. You got to tell him, hey, we're going to be showing up. We just want to make sure that we're going to, you know, be able to work with you guys and all that. Huh?

Kevin Gatewood (41:00)
John's not afraid to speak.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (41:02)
No, I know he ran for state rep. I've heard him speak. I've met him. But that's great. Reach out to him.

Kevin Gatewood (41:06)
Give the. Hey, this is coming, buddy.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (41:10)
Joy McDermott's on the board. He's a good friend and ally. He's the one that called me. Yeah, he's the one that called and told me what they did.

Ryan Shirts (41:17)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (41:17)
Okay. You've got, you've got. There's several others. You got Steve Dragge. He's a veteran. He should support it. James Malone. He's a veteran. He should support it. Wayne Hicks. He's a veteran. He should support it. Jeff Williams, he was my vice chair when I was county board chairman. He should support it. I can promise you I will whip votes before we even show up. Do you think I actually go into a fight with without knowing what the.

Ryan Shirts (41:44)
Results are before I come out?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (41:45)
Okay, come on, man.

Zach Brooks (41:46)
Okay, let's go politics a little bit and get back to proceeding.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (41:49)
Unfortunately, that's a part of this, but yes, City council, I've Already got the petition ready? That's what I was

told, yes.

Gary Reynolds (41:58)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (41:58)
Okay, I'm sure. I've got the petition ready to go.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (42:03)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (42:03)
Just need to print it and sign it by our delegates. Now that we've got all our delegates, which we were kind of just barely getting to it tonight, we finally got all the names.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (42:14)
If you give me names, legal names and email addresses on everybody, email it to me. I'll send out a docusign so everybody can docusign it.

Zach Brooks (42:20)
I'd say we just do a regular signature if we have to. If I have to go to everybody's house or whatever.

Gary Reynolds (42:27)
I don't have capability to dock sign.

Zach Brooks (42:29)
No.

Kevin Gatewood (42:33)
I don't know. Our Legion guy isn't here tonight.

Zach Brooks (42:36)
We've got a couple weeks. So I can put. I can finish putting the names in here, hopefully. I'd like for you guys to at least go on the website where I've got this and take a look at it, see if we need to do anything different. But I just borrowed from other counties what they're doing, and I've got. Already go. We just sign on the lines. We present that with the budget on the 24th and we watch. We don't need to speak. We're just pursuing this commission pursuant to statute.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:10)
Okay, statute. But leading into that, it needs to be stated as we discussed with the chairman. You need to make that clear. They don't need to feel like we're just showing up.

Zach Brooks (43:22)
We already did.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:23)
Huh?

Zach Brooks (43:24)
We already did. We already talked to him. He knows you.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:26)
But you need to say that as.

Kevin Gatewood (43:28)
Part of your speech.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:29)
Yes. You have to address that, Kevin, because if you don't, the rest of them, guys. Well, this is. First I've heard of this. This is. I'm not doing this.

Zach Brooks (43:37)
Maybe he or someone else.

Kevin Gatewood (43:39)
Well, he doesn't want to do it because he doesn't want to go confrontational on it. I know why he doesn't.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:43)
No, no, no, I can do it. I can do it, not be confrontational. But I can promise you, if somebody says something stupid, I'm going to laser shot their ass.

Kevin Gatewood (43:51)
Yeah, that's why he doesn't want to do it, because.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:53)
Exactly.

Kevin Gatewood (43:53)
Someone's going to say something stupid.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (43:55)
Well, there you go. Just being honest. Right? Being transparent. Right.

Gary Reynolds (44:04)
Yeah, I read it when you sent it out.

Zach Brooks (44:06)
Yeah. Did you read it yet?

Kevin Gatewood (44:08)
What?

Zach Brooks (44:10)
The budget?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:10)
No, no.

Zach Brooks (44:11)
On the dav28.org website that I have for our chapter, I got a link for vacation. I've got all these documents on there. I got all the 52 counties websites, sample documents, sample bylaws, everything on there. Everybody look at.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:30)
And so what's the one document that you want everybody to look at?

Kevin Gatewood (44:35)
Recognition and appropriation.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:37)
Official recognition and appropriation.

Kevin Gatewood (44:39)
Petition for.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:40)
Petition for.

Zach Brooks (44:41)
It's the second one. I can even move it up to the top.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:47)
You know what, do that please. Because that's the priority right now. Right.

Zach Brooks (44:49)
And I'll do and so. Well, that's why I was just kind.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (44:53)
Of wanting it this.

Zach Brooks (44:54)
Just to introduce this. We'll get. So you guys know about it. We'll print it out. If I have to, I'll go around everybody or something.

Kevin Gatewood (45:02)
You have it printed out. It'll be available here and everybody can come and sign it.

Ryan Shirts (45:07)
I'll print it out tomorrow.

Zach Brooks (45:08)
Yeah, that's fine. And then everybody just come by here. If there's somebody can keep it that way.

Kevin Gatewood (45:13)
Everybody's at the bar. You don't have to go. Chase, who is it you need to have sign it?

Zach Brooks (45:17)
A delegate, actually.

Kevin Gatewood (45:19)
Is it the delegates or was it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (45:20)
The alternates and delegates? Commanders.

Kevin Gatewood (45:25)
Commanders. That's what it's like.

Zach Brooks (45:26)
One or the other can't be both. It's a delegate. If the delegate can't sign, the alternate can sign for them. But you don't have both delegates.

Kevin Gatewood (45:34)
Primary signature.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (45:35)
Yeah, because delegates have already been assigned by.

Kevin Gatewood (45:38)
Delegates are assigned alternatives are del there.

Zach Brooks (45:40)
In case the other person can't do it.

Kevin Gatewood (45:42)
They're pre approved fill ins.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (45:44)
Yeah, yeah. What happened to American Legion? They don't have delegate or anything down there.

Zach Brooks (45:48)
I mean I talked to Michael Hay, he said he was out of town, but the other person was supposed to be here. Eric

Kennedy.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (45:56)
Okay, if you got it up here, send, send a text message or something. I can stop by after work.

Zach Brooks (46:02)
The only thing that's a little unclear to me right now, I was hoping to be resolved by now. Is the VFW officially changed to the.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:10)
No, we're waiting on the national commander.

Zach Brooks (46:13)
So do we put like a hyphen between.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:16)
You know what? No, just keep everything separate until it's complete.

Zach Brooks (46:20)
Well, do we just leave the other post number out of it?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:24)
Because for the time being, yeah, they.

Zach Brooks (46:26)
Still, they don't have a.

Kevin Gatewood (46:27)
Did they ever submit a vote on it?

Zach Brooks (46:29)
Not required.

Kevin Gatewood (46:30)
They ever submit a form to you?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:31)
Another post?

Zach Brooks (46:32)
No, but they don't just show up meetings they don't have.

Kevin Gatewood (46:35)
Just do the one post. New post is going to have what, the same number as your post here?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:39)
No. So the new post is going to be the Mike Flanagan Memorial Post 1376. We're keeping the 1376 because it's weight or it's up in stature because it's oldest.

Kevin Gatewood (46:52)
That's the number you need to put on, Brian.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:55)
Yeah, that's fine.

Zach Brooks (46:56)
Changing the post.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (46:57)
I mean, we've already elected officers in that post. We're just waiting on Carol to sign off on it. State's already approved it. I can't imagine they would turn that down. That'd be ignorant as hell, too. Too comp.

Kevin Gatewood (47:10)
Post to be combined.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:11)
Yeah.

Ryan Shirts (47:12)
Two different situations right now. They're. They're hung up in Congress. They will be.

Kevin Gatewood (47:19)
So.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:19)
Oh, vfw with all the other stuff going on. Yeah. And this is.

Zach Brooks (47:23)
So if you. Did you guys just tell me what we want to put for the vfw.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:26)
What do you think, man? What do we do?

Ryan Shirts (47:28)
I think it needs to be separate, because if we sign.

Kevin Gatewood (47:30)
I was gonna say, what's the current post that you're representing?

Zach Brooks (47:33)
Legally, it's the only active one's. The 19.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:36)
Yeah. All right, let's do it.

Ryan Shirts (47:39)
Because if we come back and we put 1376.

Zach Brooks (47:41)
Well, I could put a parentheses after.

Ryan Shirts (47:44)
This isn't a 1376.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:46)
Agreed. Agreed. Agreed.

Zach Brooks (47:48)
Agreed.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (47:50)
No, don't put in parentheses. That leaves questions. Don't leave questions.

Kevin Gatewood (47:53)
We have a piece of paper saying these are the delegates for. Put that number on there. Put that post number on it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (48:01)
It is. It's 9233.

Kevin Gatewood (48:03)
Because. Because when. When someone says, this is a type you gotta resubmit, you hold that form up. So this is what their chapter submitted.

Zach Brooks (48:09)
Right. But if it changes between now and then, they could use that as a reason.

Kevin Gatewood (48:15)
They control delegates.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (48:20)
Once national signs off, I'm going to report to this vac. We will reassign, he and I as the. The delegate and alternate, unless somebody else wants to take it on paperwork.

Kevin Gatewood (48:31)
Because at this point in time, that's supposed to.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (48:35)
9233. Yes, sir. That's fine. I agree.

Gary Reynolds (48:39)
We got to go ahead.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (48:41)
I like to fight, but I don't like to fight against dumb stuff.

Gary Reynolds (48:43)
Yeah, let's go ahead.

Zach Brooks (48:44)
Okay, so let's get back to the budget.

Kevin Gatewood (48:48)
That's not a problem.

Zach Brooks (48:49)
Does anybody have any comments or suggestions or questions on the budget that Bob prepared?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (48:57)
Again, I think this is overstating it a bit, but I'd rather overstate than undershoot. Because, again, to your point, Zach, I do want to be open and honest with these guys. It's not about a fight. They're welcome to be a part of this. They just need to assign one of the veterans to be a non voting member of this. I want them to be here. I really do. Because to his point, what's our number one goal regardless of who we are representing? It's all about the veterans. That's all this is about. It's not about me. It's not about him. It's not about any of you. We will come and go what we set up. I want to be in stone. I want it to be solid. I want it to grow.

Kevin Gatewood (49:34)
Yep.

Zach Brooks (49:35)
Personally and I think we don't want to make it too low.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (49:39)
No.

Zach Brooks (49:40)
Because they're going to want to cut stuff. So we make it high and we got a little wiggle room. We have to cut back.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (49:45)
And again we don't know what we're facing until we do this.

Zach Brooks (49:47)
And the office, that's one thing.

Kevin Gatewood (49:50)
The facilities, you can just say this was facilities. Was our estimated county.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (49:55)
And if you guys are going to provide it then that comes right on out.

Zach Brooks (49:58)
Right.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (49:58)
You can adjust it. We don't care.

Zach Brooks (49:59)
And get a free office somewhere whether you own it or not. Somebody could donate office space.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (50:04)
You brought that up at the last meeting that maybe a veteran owned business has some extra office space. I've thought about it and I've been looking around. I don't know of any just yet. My building's not big enough. If it was, I would offer it but I don't have a big enough parking lot either.

Zach Brooks (50:17)
People like Roger Tedrick.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (50:20)
That's. He's. That. He doesn't own that anymore. No. And that's. It's. He's got the same thing. I don't think they have enough. Yeah, I don't think they have enough room. But I think we could.

Zach Brooks (50:29)
Somebody will come forward once this starts going.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (50:32)
Yeah.

Zach Brooks (50:32)
We can start maybe putting things in the paper. Get the website going, some Facebook. Once people know about it. Maybe we'll have somebody come forward and want to assist us.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (50:41)
What was it?

Zach Brooks (50:42)
Williamson county where a business person had a. A large office space and donated. I think Donnie Hogan told us that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (50:51)
Oh that probably was Belleville and then office.

Zach Brooks (50:57)
Some private business had extra space. You know if we could get lucky.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (51:02)
You know that.

Zach Brooks (51:03)
Truth be told, being in a county owned building.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (51:07)
Agreed.

Zach Brooks (51:08)
Paying rent if somebody wanted to.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (51:10)
Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (51:10)
That's kind of down the road.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (51:11)
Right. Exactly. But to the point of the budget though, that's. That's the example. We don't have to. We may not need no money for that. But we're telling you until we've got it secured, that's what we're thinking.

Zach Brooks (51:25)
This is our first couple months.

Kevin Gatewood (51:27)
If you guys can do better, feel free. We'll use the office you can provide. This is how we're approaching it.

Zach Brooks (51:33)
So here it is.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (51:34)
They don't have room in the courthouse and they may be in the justice center but I don't know. I haven't been in there in a while.

Zach Brooks (51:40)
So I like this. If nobody has any changes, suggest off go through. Go through them. Format a little nicer with the spreadsheet. That's what I'm good at.

Ryan Shirts (51:49)
I think I would. The main one I would say is just reallocating a little bit on the training budget just so when it comes up it's not stupid but.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (52:03)
But how much do you think I.

Ryan Shirts (52:05)
Would say between the three to five thousand dollar range for training budget because pretty much any. Any major one.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (52:16)
I don't know how it is with.

Ryan Shirts (52:17)
The dav but any major entity that has their VSO accreditation requires you to do it. And with us we have to be dual certified. It would not have to be, but you would want to be. So VSO you have to be accredited through them and. And then you have to be accredited hopefully through the vfw. I might be impartial or I might be partial with it but with their system you need to be. I believe they really do have the best system and this is me hands on with everyone that I can think of but that you have to send them to either Washington or you have to do the virtual training once or twice a year for the wash or virtual once a year for the. But that's a week that they have to be gone.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (53:11)
Well so with any of these budgets and believe me I've got extensive experience with county budgets, your overall budget you can ship between those line items. So if we need to ship money over we can but point very well taken.

Zach Brooks (53:25)
Volunteer service officers. I'm one. His wife just became one. The DAP V pays for our certification and training. So we've got that covered too Zach if he's the superintendent and if not.

Kevin Gatewood (53:42)
He'S at least from the vfw.

Zach Brooks (53:44)
Yeah, at least we'll have an office in Jefferson county where a service officer can come and meet someone and help them with their claim.

Gary Reynolds (53:53)
It's part of their budget with the they actually enforcing county buddy training and conferences. $10,000.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (54:00)
Oh wow. Okay. So they overshot it.

Gary Reynolds (54:03)
Yeah, I mean that's part of the budget. You know they sure submitted to Washington county and because like I said, you got it. It's very important Camp to have the BSO training.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (54:14)
Well that's the whole big thing of it. Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (54:16)
What do you got in the budget now?

Zach Brooks (54:18)
Thousand dollars for a year.

Kevin Gatewood (54:19)
So 4,000. This is what counties or even just meet it halfway. Just say 5,000 for now. I mean you're going to change this.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (54:27)
Number by to a six and again you can shift stuff around. So you know the other part is too like the computer and the printer and all that. You're not going to buy that every year. So this thing's going to. Right.

Kevin Gatewood (54:39)
First you understand it's in there as a one time expense too. So.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (54:43)
So the county paid for the training, you didn't.

Gary Reynolds (54:46)
Well the county. Well it came out of the training, came out of the county budget. But the computers and all that infrastructure, all the office space, county pays that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (54:57)
Over and above all because that's what this legislation states. Right.

Zach Brooks (55:02)
Told me same manager that they'll donate office furniture, stuff like that. So I've already got that kind of going. So those replace swing trim the website hosting. $400. It's not much money but I'll donate that. If we don't want to pay that.

Kevin Gatewood (55:21)
$400 or even we end up taking it out of the money we raised separate for the, for this commission to operate on.

Zach Brooks (55:30)
Right. There's things that we can, there's ways.

Kevin Gatewood (55:33)
We can shift that cost around.

Zach Brooks (55:35)
Right.

Kevin Gatewood (55:35)
We can cut this gives them a sample budget of what. What they should be expecting to pay.

Zach Brooks (55:40)
It's a starting point.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (55:42)
Yeah.

Zach Brooks (55:42)
For discussion.

Ryan Shirts (55:44)
Well.

Zach Brooks (55:46)
When we submit they tell us what they think of it.

Ryan Shirts (55:50)
So we might even differentiate it between like instead of just throwing all this out there saying hey, this is an actual like this is the operating expenses for it and these are possible expenses for your equipment and training. All of that like to show what we anticipate for expenses. Well like say for it you have your salary on there and then you have the. Okay, this is the budget for veterans assistance.

Kevin Gatewood (56:35)
Have you looked at this?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (56:36)
Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (56:37)
Okay. I didn't know if you saw how.

Ryan Shirts (56:38)
It was broke down, but doing that and then having drawing attention to this is okay. This is a possible expenditure because I'll be honest, if say it for me, you're not going to have any equipment.

Kevin Gatewood (56:55)
Right.

Zach Brooks (56:55)
And what.

Ryan Shirts (56:56)
Yeah, if it's me, you're not going to have any equipment expenditures.

Kevin Gatewood (56:59)
He's already got everything, right.

Ryan Shirts (57:01)
I've got all my, I've got everything set up. So just show it like this is.

Zach Brooks (57:06)
Good and if they say fine, we go with this but if not we can start Cutting things.

Ryan Shirts (57:13)
Well, that's what I was just saying is just like bringing. This is highly unlike showing your differentiating it and salary and. And assistance and then underneath that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (57:26)
Okay, we gotta wrap up.

Zach Brooks (57:28)
All right, you have your meeting here.

Gary Reynolds (57:30)
We got three guys.

Zach Brooks (57:31)
Three guys. All right.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (57:34)
All right, so we're good with the budget. Do we need to do a motion and a vote or.

Zach Brooks (57:39)
Yes, I guess. We have a motion to accept this proposed budget for 2026 to submit to the can board. Okay. Delegates.

Kevin Gatewood (57:54)
Delegates.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (57:54)
Yep.

Zach Brooks (57:55)
So. So Gary Reynolds motion, I guess. And you want. Zach, you want to make a motion? Second. Second.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:04)
Okay, so motion by Gary Reynolds and second by Zach Brooks.

Zach Brooks (58:08)
And all in favor of this proposed.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:11)
Budget say II but let's do a roll call vote, please. Please.

Zach Brooks (58:15)
Okay.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:15)
We're talking about money. So go ahead, just start calling off names. Gary. All right.

Zach Brooks (58:20)
DFW Mount Imposed.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:23)
Robert White says I.

Zach Brooks (58:28)
Am imposed. No, are you say I for the.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:33)
Waltonville for this budget.

Zach Brooks (58:38)
Okay, so very. You made the motion and then for the. For the Waltonville.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:48)
Waltonville. Vfw the delegate.

Zach Brooks (58:50)
Right.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (58:51)
Yes.

Kevin Gatewood (58:51)
Do you.

Zach Brooks (58:52)
Are you doing an eye for this budget? Yes, for the budget. Okay, let's see who else. Oh, he's got the sign in sheet D. Gatewood. I say I.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (59:03)
So it's unanimous. Yeah. By those present. Okay.

Zach Brooks (59:10)
Yeah. Did you get that? I got a place for initials over there. My phone.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (59:17)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (59:18)
Okay, good. Thank you. All right. Okay, so we got that. I don't know if we need to vote on the petition.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (59:28)
I'll. No, the signature will be the board. Yeah, the signature will be a acclimation towards it. Right. If you're missing a signature, it doesn't work.

Zach Brooks (59:37)
Right. So I'll look at that again, go through it one more time, see if I got it ready. I'd appreciate if everybody tried to take a look at it in the next day or two. Look it over. Second set of eyes at least. And then we'll print it out. I'll sign it. Whoever's printing it out, we'll just get the signatures as well quickly as we can. Next meeting and we'll take it to the county board meeting.

Kevin Gatewood (1:00:03)
Okay. What. What is our next meeting? Yeah, originally we had said the 19th.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:00:08)
What.

Zach Brooks (1:00:08)
Do you remember what that was? In our minutes.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:00:11)
Hang on. 19 19th of December.

Zach Brooks (1:00:17)
19Th of December. No, no, no, no.

Ryan Shirts (1:00:20)
We had one November.

Kevin Gatewood (1:00:21)
November 19th was our emergency schedule.

Ryan Shirts (1:00:23)
What? Right, yeah, it was the 19th of November.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:00:26)
Do we need to have a meeting? Okay, so we will want to do that.

Zach Brooks (1:00:33)
Yeah. That way it's another get together before we have the county board thing.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:00:37)
Okay.

Zach Brooks (1:00:37)
Before that, in case we have any more discussions, we need to have you.

Kevin Gatewood (1:00:41)
All your signatures that night.

Zach Brooks (1:00:42)
Right? That's what I'm thinking. Yeah, we do. That we can do. And any other last minute stuff we think of. We can also see if we can kind of get some bylaws. So we're ready to go as soon as the county board gets it. We've got bylaws, we got petition, we got a budget. If anybody else thinks of anything else we need to do.

Gary Reynolds (1:01:02)
So we're still going on the 19th versus what time? 16.

Kevin Gatewood (1:01:06)
That's what I had on here. Yeah. Was there?

Zach Brooks (1:01:09)
Yeah, I put it on my 19th at 1800.

Kevin Gatewood (1:01:12)
Yeah.

Ryan Shirts (1:01:13)
So with the next one, I would say with the 19th one, that.

Kevin Gatewood (1:01:19)
We.

Ryan Shirts (1:01:19)
Can pretty much be official without being official saying with everybody that's here doing the final vote for the. At least the other two spots, the.

Kevin Gatewood (1:01:28)
Key spots, flesh out the bylaws and figure out what other positions of award we need and get it voted in, get your petition signed.

Zach Brooks (1:01:39)
We don't, none of us have done this before. We don't know how much it's going to cost or what kind of things are going to come up. So this doesn't have to be perfect the way I say, we just got to have something to start, make everything official. Then a few months in, we'll probably see what kind of issues we come up against, what we got to adjust and go from there.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:01:58)
Because after doing the back and forth, he said he supported it and I said, good, because we're ready to roll come January. I hope you are. And that's pretty much where we left it. So.

Ryan Shirts (1:02:11)
Yeah, I mean, I'm, I, I believe one way or the other, it'll be here 13:52 again. We'll put a hiccup in it if they, if they hear wind of it.

Kevin Gatewood (1:02:21)
But at the same time, we have to remind them pretty much any county they've joined with, they're going to be the bigger share on it.

Zach Brooks (1:02:27)
So let me say this. The thing I've got to offer is I graduate from law school. Legal precedent. Circuit court decisions are not legal precedent. Only in that particular county or court.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:02:42)
Where it occurs, they can sign it.

Zach Brooks (1:02:45)
Appellate courts are legal precedent, but not as much as Supreme Court.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:02:49)
Right.

Zach Brooks (1:02:49)
Supreme Court is a slam dunk change of the law. If the Supreme Court decides a case, that's.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:02:59)
Are you saying I should invite honorable David Overstreet to the.

Zach Brooks (1:03:02)
I'm just saying they're a long way.

Kevin Gatewood (1:03:05)
If we fell in the same district as Sagamont.

Zach Brooks (1:03:07)
Yeah.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:12)
They have no.

Zach Brooks (1:03:13)
They have no grounds to use that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:17)
No. I mean, I appreciate the concerns he voiced as a result of that lawsuit, but here again, we've got a transparent relationship here, unless they turn it otherwise, which he kind of did when he told us not to show up. But that's okay.

Kevin Gatewood (1:03:33)
He's trying to hide it, hide us out of the.

Zach Brooks (1:03:35)
And.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:35)
And I don't know why.

Ryan Shirts (1:03:36)
I don't think it's that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:38)
It's.

Ryan Shirts (1:03:38)
What was his reasoning?

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:40)
He didn't provide one.

Ryan Shirts (1:03:42)
He's the person, or. What you said to me is they wanted to see what Sangamon county did.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:03:47)
Well, he mentioned that after the fact, but he's never brought that up prior.

Ryan Shirts (1:03:50)
And now with it being officially public. Public, That's. That's whenever we're going to see the truth.

Zach Brooks (1:03:57)
All it takes is one person at war that wants to eject or something. And everybody. Like with Ted and R, we had one person that delayed us. I mean, we could. We outvoted him, no problem. We were just trying to explain it to him.

Kevin Gatewood (1:04:11)
It took us an hour to explain to the old man that we. It's happening whether we're here or not.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:04:17)
Yours are in it or you're watching it.

Zach Brooks (1:04:19)
Same thing with the county board.

Kevin Gatewood (1:04:21)
You get.

Zach Brooks (1:04:24)
Everybody listens to them.

Kevin Gatewood (1:04:25)
So guess who.

Ryan Shirts (1:04:27)
And here we are. When it comes to it, I. I don't mind if you want somebody to speak there. I don't mind doing it because I can. When it comes down to it, it's. I have the same mentality. It's my veterans. Give me my leash. Let me run with it. Don't fuck with them. At the end of the day, that's.

Kevin Gatewood (1:04:48)
Basically what we're looking for.

Ryan Shirts (1:04:50)
But I can say that very eloquently. And I can also put in the fact that day in and day out, I see the stuff that the BAC does in other counties, and I see the need and I see our own residents that come down to Marion and me not being able to provide it in the capacity I'm in. But the impact that them not having the access to the funds and to the care and to everything that. What that detriment is to that.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:05:26)
I'm going to make some phone calls tomorrow. Maybe we get a spot in the VA clinic. They've got a lot of space in there.

Kevin Gatewood (1:05:34)
As far as I know right now, they're not using the state office that's in there for.

Zach Brooks (1:05:39)
I've already got stupid laws.

Kevin Gatewood (1:05:42)
They got stupid rules.

Ryan Shirts (1:05:43)
Zach Sage has Delegated it to the community or to the manager there. And she is stuck up Idva's ass so far

because Jeff Lewis left a good taste in her mouth. It's not funny. So she will not give up that. And they are only required to give one spot to it. And that. That's idva.

Zach Brooks (1:06:04)
If they were to come up and offer it, fine. But asking them the idva.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:06:09)
I'm still gonna make my phone.

Zach Brooks (1:06:10)
Jeff is.

Ryan Shirts (1:06:11)
Jeff is actively seeking to do it because I. Yeah.

Kevin Gatewood (1:06:16)
So are they trying to. Are. Is he searching for a new person.

Ryan Shirts (1:06:19)
For Mount Vernon there and Marion? Because Tina quit as of the 17th.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:06:25)
Well, maybe we talk to Jeff and.

Kevin Gatewood (1:06:27)
Say, hey, Jeff, I got a quite question. Do you know where Jeff has posted that job?

Ryan Shirts (1:06:31)
He's not yet.

Kevin Gatewood (1:06:33)
Okay. Because I know someone who wants it.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:06:36)
Let me guess who wants it bad. Let me guess. Your wife.

Kevin Gatewood (1:06:39)
Yes. She wants out of the data processing side.

Ryan Shirts (1:06:43)
They've hired me for Harrisburg and for Marion, and this right here is what stopped me. And then the one in Williamson county as well, because I was helping it until they started their stuff.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:06:55)
Well, good then. Now we have more added motivation to make this happen.

Kevin Gatewood (1:06:59)
I can tell you if you need to put a bug in Jeff's ear.

Zach Brooks (1:07:02)
Tom, you've got a Jefferson county meeting.

Kevin Gatewood (1:07:05)
Remote resident that wants to sit in that clinic and help veterans.

Unknown Speaker A (Possibly Chair or Lead Presenter) (1:07:09)
Hey. Hey. I make a motion, we adjourn.

Zach Brooks (1:07:13)
Second that motion. All in favor adjourn?