

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting  
January 3, 2017

The Commissioners' meeting opened promptly at 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the Ripley County Highway Garage, Osgood, Indiana.

Commissioners Stutler, Linville, and Stratton were present as well as Auditor Wagner.

Issues in getting highway employees to respond to call-ins over the holidays were discussed. This will be researched.

The filling of open positions was also discussed.

Foreman Kissell reported the Highway Broom had been delivered. Also he discussed the radio tower rental from the Southeastern Indiana Career Center. He will follow up.

With no further business to attend, Commissioner Linville moved to recess to the annex. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Linville moved to reconvene the meeting with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes and Commissioner Stutler opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. Commissioner Stutler, Stratton, and Linville were present as well as Auditor Wagner and County Attorney Ertel.

**Maintenance—Mr. John Lohrum 8:13:27**

Mr. Lohrum advised Patterson's Nursery would plant the replacement trees in the spring. He also advised that the company monitoring the systems at the annex building had not notified anyone of problems with the boiler, etc. not working properly. Ms. Kelly Vollet is to contact them for an explanation.

**EMA—Mr. Patrick Rose 8:50:27**

Mr. Rose requested the commissioners sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Batesville Schools allowing Ripley County use of their parking lot and facilities in emergencies. Commissioner Linville moved to approve the request with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

**Sheriff—Sheriff Jeff Cumberworth 9:01:27**

Sheriff Cumberworth advised he was waiting on the contract for the replacement of the Integrator system. Commissioner Linville moved to sign the quote to get to the company for them to provide the contract. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Sheriff Cumberworth then requested the commissioners to consider making an exception to the current 40 hour maximum accumulated stated in the Ripley County Employee Handbook and raising the maximum for the Sheriff's Department to 120 hours maximum

accumulated. Commissioner Linville moved to table the request with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

Next the Sheriff requested using jail officers to staff the Courthouse Security during the absence of one of the part time people. The commissioners stated they approved of the request. Auditor Wagner advised that ALL hours worked for the county would need to be considered for comp or overtime situations and would need to be paid from the Courthouse Security budget as required.

### **EMS—Mr. Scott Huffman**

Mr. Huffman advised he had not received the contract from Rescue 30 yet and County Attorney Ertel advised he had not received the final version yet either. Hope is to have it by the 1/13/17 Commissioner Meeting.

Mr. Huffman presented the applications for new employees to man the Milan operation. (Mr. Jon Nichols, Ms. Lynn McDonald, Mr. Greg Bottoms, Ms. Leah Carpenter, Ms. Emilee Hernandez, Ms. Abigail Burris, Mr. Ronald Davidson, Mr. Keith Bradley, Ms. Alex Poole, and Mr. Kenneth Carpenter)

Commissioner Linville moved to approve the applications contingent on the contract being signed and the County (by request of the Board for Rescue 30) taking over the EMS operation 2/1/2017. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Mr. Huffman then addressed an issue of obtaining part time employees over holidays that are not getting paid overtime on the actual holiday rather than the county observed holiday. He requested the commissioners consider an exemption for the EMS Department that the employee be paid overtime for working the actual holiday rather than the county observed holiday. Commissioner Stratton moved to table the request to gather more information with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes.

### **Southeastern Career Center—Mr. Brad Street and Attorney Larry Eaton 9:38:15**

Mr. Street provided a certificate of insurance and a proposal for using the County Fairground Facility for the proposed CDL training class for the coming school year.

Commissioner Statton spoke on the Liability issue with the public being present at the same time the CDL driving instruction was going on. He stressed he felt the program was needed and a great idea but felt it would be better suited different location. Attorney Eaton spoke on behalf of the school and Mr. Street presented his ideas as well. After discussion Commissioner Linville moved to table the request with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3yes.

The rental contract for the use of the Career Center's radio tower by the County Highway Garage was discussed and Foreman Pat Kissell is to meet with Mr. Brad Street to get the details worked out.

**Southeast Indiana Regional Planning Commission—Ms. Kerry McConnell 10:11:30**

Ms. McConnell requested signatures from the commissioners for the paperwork for the Community Block Grant for the rehab of low income residents' homes. The commissioners signed the forms needed.

**Area Planning—Mr. Tad Brinson**

Mr. Brinson discussed issues with office personnel and his recommendation was to NOT reappoint the secretary for the office. County Attorney Ertel spoke to the position and informed the commissioners that it was a dual appointment by them and the Planning Commission as that job reported to the Commissioners and the Planning commission. He stressed both would need to be in agreement for the appointed person.

Commissioner Linville moved to defer to the decision of the appointment be deferred to the Planning Commission Board and the Executive Director of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

**BREAK—10:48:50**

**Ms. Margaret Hopping—Dogs barking and running loose 10:56:45**

Ms. Hopping provided the commissioners with pictures of the dogs in question owned by the neighbor. She questioned the constant barking and aggressiveness of the dogs. She stated the neighbor had an underground fence but it was laying on top the ground and the dogs get out of it on occasion. The neighbor had warned her two of the three dogs would bite and stated one was part wolf. Non barking collars did not keep them from barking either.

Attorney Ertel stated there was no "noise" ordinance for property in the county and all that was on the books was for vicious dogs. Since the dogs have not attacked or bitten anyone they could not be considered vicious just because they bark.

At this time there is no issue that can be addressed by the commissioners or law enforcement. Ms. Hopping was advised she could exercise her right to file a civil matter with the courts as the only avenue open to her at this time.

Auditor Wagner presented the commissioners with the claims for consideration. Commissioner Linville moved to approve the claims as presented with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

Since the commissioners recessed the prior meeting those minutes will be presented at the next meeting 1/13/2017.

The commissioners signed the renewal for termite treatment at the courthouse with Cardinal Pest Control.

Commissioner Linville moved to appoint Commissioner Stratton for the Technology Board with a second from Commissioner Stutler. Motion passed with 3 yes.

