

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

May 17, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mark Horstman, President, Chris Schmaltz, Kendall Hankins, Amy Copeland, Auditor & John Ertel, County Attorney.

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert asked the commissioners about replacing the hooks on the flag poles. The Commissioners told Mr. Herbert to price the hooks for the flag poles and to purchase the best deal. Mr. Herbert also stated that they finished up the sewage repair in the basement of the courthouse.

Commissioner Discussion:

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the \$250,000.00 OCRA grant for the businesses in Ripley County, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg Dole – Hoosier Hills Regional Water District

Mr. Dole came in to talk about the water tower in Elrod, off US 50, for improvement or replacement. Hoosier Hills is wanting to receive some of the funding from the American Rescue Plan.

Willard Baker – Drainage

Mr. Baker was in to discuss the drainage issue on his property. The Commissioners told Mr. Baker to file a drainage form.

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth came in to let the Commissioners know that he has a new special deputy. This is for the resource officer at South Ripley School Corporation.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the transfer to South Ripley School Corporation a car from the sheriff's office for the resource officer at the school, with all legal papers that must be filed, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

CivilCon – Steve Meyer

Mr. Meyer came in to introduce himself to the Ripley County Commissioners.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops stated that Chris Stearns has 600 tons of 11 stone. Mr. Stearns wants \$14.00 a ton to haul them to the county garage. Commissioner Hankins requested that the county garage not accept this offer, due to lack of weight tickets and trackable amounts in the event of an audit. Lack of weight ticketing and adequate paper trailing may present as an issue. Mr. Toops

also stated that there is a problem with one of the mowing tractors. He has advised to have this machine repaired by the in-house mechanic's staff. Commissioner Hankins asked for a monthly report from the highway garage on everything that is getting done monthly.

Election Board – Michael Weiler, Diane Macek, & Ed Gindling

Mr. Weiler was in to talk about some challenges they are facing as the election board. They have received an abundance of new equipment for the county election. A storage solution in a secure location must be made available to ensure the integrity of the equipment. Options are currently being explored within the annex to offer a permanent storage solution.

Coroner – Jason Bailey

Mr. Bailey came in to talk about purchasing a building in Osgood for the coroner's office. The Commissioners asked Mr. Bailey to get the budget from the Decatur County coroner morgue.

Versailles Main Street – Roxanne Meyer

Ms. Meyer was in with an updated cost of putting the electrical units by the benches on the sidewalk. Ms. Meyer is stating they are needing an easement for the placement of the electric units. The Commissioners have told Versailles Main Street that they will purchase a new bench for the courthouse square.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the 8 foot temporary easement and a 2 foot permanent as build easement subject of review of the attorney paperwork, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins.
Motion passed unanimously.

Veteran Office – Ken Hylton

Mr. Hylton was in about the cannon on the courthouse square and repairing/painting to beautify the courthouse lawn.

Commissioner Discussion:

Attorney Ertel brought in an ordinance for the ARP fund for the commissioners to sign.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 Ordinance, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the resolution establishing the policy whereby members of the board of commissioners of Ripley County may participate by electronic means of communication, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.


EMS – Scott Huffman


Attorney Ertel asked my Huffman about the opioid litigation and the runs that the Ripley County EMS took due to opioid issue. Mr. Huffman stated they would take runs with an opioid issue, but the Ripley County EMS was never aware of where they got the opioids.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the May 03, 2021 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.


Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the claims and payroll, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to adjourn the May 17, 2021 meeting, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.


_____ Mark Horstman, President


_____ Chris Schmaltz

Kendall Hankins

Assts: 
_____ Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor