

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

June 17, 2019

The Commissioners' meeting opened promptly at 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 17, 2019 at the Ripley County Annex Building, Versailles, Indiana. Commissioner Stratton, Commissioner Stutler and Commissioner Horstman were in attendance as well as Attorney Ertel and Auditor Copeland.

Commissioner Stratton opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

EMA

Commissioner Horstman made the motion to appoint Shawn Alvavado to the EMA/ADA position as part-time \$25,000 per year, Commissioner Stutler 2nd the motion. Motion approved 3 yes. Mr. Rich Corkham, EMA Volunteer, gave an EMA update along with Matt Chastain, EMA Volunteer. Mr. Ben Sieverding was in attendance and the commissioners asked about the siren that faulted over the weekend. He told the commissioners it is the town siren and they are fixing it.

Sheriff Department – Mr. Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth let the commissioners know that there is a bad leak in the roof. The Commissioners told Mr. Cumberworth to contact Hornberger to have it looked at. Mr. Cumberworth let the commissioners know that the cars have been on the auction for a month now come Wednesday 6/19/19.

Highway Department – Mr. Ray Toops

Mr. Toops was in about the covered bridge. Mr. Toops stated that they had to take one of the trees down by the bridge. It was in the way of getting it fixed. Mr. Toops also gave an update on the bad weather that we are having.

Technology – Ms. Kelly Vollet

Ms. Vollet was in to let the commissioners know that lightning had hit the courthouse and they are having issues with all the equipment. The Commissioners told Ms. Vollet to go ahead and order a used recording unit for the Circuit Court so they could go ahead with business. The Commissioners stated she could pay for it out of Cum Cap.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman was in for the commissioners to approve new hires. Mr. Huffman stated that everything is going great with the merging of Rescue 69 and Ripley County.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Ron Decker, Councilman, asked about the equipment that has not been returned since the Rescue 69 merge. Darrell Ake, EMA Volunteer, stated they have not returned the radios as of 6/17/19. When they are received back they need to be given to EMA so they can write the number down off of them for audit purposes.

Main Street Versailles, Jeff French was the representative, asked if the probation cars and trailers could be moved to the other side of the parking lot for the June 22, 2019 Car show and Farmer's Market. The Commissioners asked Mr. Schmaltz to move them for the weekend.

Drainage Hearing: Dennis Reed, Jack Mess, and John Jones. Ripley County Surveyor, Jeff French provided his report and a summary of the situation related to surface and subsurface drainage issues. Dennis Reed and John Jones both made statements regarding their situation. Since this issue involves two types of drainage issues, and the Commissioners only have statutory authority to address surface drainage being blocked, it was suggested and the parties requested the matter to be continued/tabled in order that they have an opportunity to take corrective measures themselves. Commissioner Horstman made the motion to table the drainage issue, Commissioner Stutler 2nd the motion. Motion approved 3 yes. The Commissioners are allowing the parties time resolve all issues on their own and if there are not, this matter was reset for July 15, 2019 at 9:30a.m. All parties were present and made aware of the new hearing date, with the understanding that they will not be receiving notice or a reminder of said hearing date.

Mr. Von McGuire was in about a drive on the east side of 421. He is wanting to know if it is a county road. Jeff French located Commissioners' minutes from 1825 noting that Hopewell Road may have extended through said property. Last year, the Commissioners were approached by Sheila McGuire asking if it was a road or private drive. The drive formerly identified as Hopewell Road East of U.S. 421 was identified as East Hopewell Road for 911 purposes in order that Emergency Responders would be able to find said locations. Further, it was determined that said drive formerly identified as East Hopewell Road has not been on Ripley County's inventory of highways, and the County has received neither any funds for the maintenance of it, nor has the County maintained for as long as anyone can remember. Additionally, public documents and deeds have identified the driveway as a strip 20 feet wide width, and there is no identification of where any such road, or right-of-way is actually located. The Commissioners could not say it was a county road in light of the aforementioned circumstances, and the fact that Sheila McGuire, individually, owns the driveway according to public records, and any such road or

road improvement would now cut through her homestead/barnyard area. The Commissioners concluded last year that it is not a maintained county road. At this meeting the Commissioners concluded that more information would be necessary from Von McGuire and Sheila McGuire in relation to this issue, should either party pursue an attempt to utilize, improve, or petition to close such road, assuming it can be identified in an accurate manner. Further, both property owners, and those adjoining Sheila McGuire's driveway, who access their properties via easements, should be present and heard from.

Auditor Copeland presented an ordinance that would be effective July 1, 2019. This will change the transfer fee to \$5.00 to \$10.00 per deed.

Auditor Copeland presented the commissioners with the minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting Commissioner Horstman made the motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Stutler. Motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Horstman moved to approve the claims with a 2nd from Commissioner Stutler. Motion passed with 3 yes.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Vouchers, Claim Vouchers, and Claims being paid from the commissioners' budget.

With no further business to attend, Commissioner Horstman moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Stutler. Motion passed 3 yes.

 _____ Rodney Stratton, President

 _____ Gary Stutler

 _____ Mark Horstman

Assts:  _____ Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor