

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

November 01, 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 stated he got with Jeff Poole of The Poole Group, LLC and he cannot get to the Circuit Court office until December 20, 2021 to look at the floor.

Mr. Herbert would like to replace a wooden ladder with a 6 foot fiber glass ladder.

Commissioner Hankins asked about what can be covered out of this year's budget that needs done right away.

*The Commissioners discussed purchasing a truck for the annex building. The Commissioners asked the County Auditor to call and get 2 quotes.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops stated that Dave O'Mara will be done with Michigan Road on Tuesday November 2, 2021.

Mr. Toops also mentioned that INDOT is going to have a project from Osgood to Napoleon and also taking out a bridge on 421 by AJ's Auto. This will require the county to have detours. The unofficial detour will be 421 to Fairground Road to Michigan Road to 850 West to 500 North to Millhousen Road will take you back to 421. The dates are scheduled from April 1, 2022 to November 2022.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the unofficial detour for the closing of 421 from Osgood to Napoleon, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Toops stated that the fixing of 200 South should be finished tomorrow November 2, 2021.

Commissioner Horstman stated that 1300 North is getting torn up from the loaded dump trucks that are traveling it. Forman Huntington will be getting a price for the repair of the road. Mr. Klump of Klump Excavating & Construction stated this is just the first phase of the project in Indian Lakes. Mr. Toops is going to call Mr. Klump to talk things over with him.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that Billy Bright with Jacobi, Toombs & Lanz, was in the building before the afternoon meeting and wanted to know if we bid our bridge inspection out. Commissioner Schmaltz stated that was already done for the year.

Commissioner Hankins stated that he contacted Rebecca Packer with INDOT about the speeding on State Road 62 in Friendship. She stated they will look into putting more signs up.

Mr. Toops also brought up a Gradall purchase. This Gradall may be available to purchase out of the 2022 budget.

Johnson/Melloh Solutions – Rick Anderson

Mr. Anderson was in to get an update on the Courthouse project. The Commissioners told him they are not ready for the project yet. The Commissioners told Mr. Anderson to get on the agenda in February 2022 and hopefully they will be ready by then to be able to make a decision.

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth stated that no one applied for the part-time maintenance job. They talked about asking Mr. Herbert, maintenance of the courthouse and annex, if he would be interested in additional hours with additional pay.

Mr. Cumberworth stated they had another jailer quit.

Mr. Cumberworth also stated that the Sheriff office got a new tahoe with a grant supplying \$15,000.00 of the purchase.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman was in to give an update on the building improvements. The Poole Group is waiting on a permit to get started. Mr. Huffman talked about the roof with standing seam or shingles. The Poole Group thinks the standing seam will put us over budget.

Mr. Huffman said last year that Margaret Mary Hospital would pull our funding. Mr. Huffman stated the hospital, Liz Leising, CEO, would pay the county \$19,000.00 a year if the EMS would give 2 classes a month. This is a work in progress with the hospital.

Mr. Huffman received the \$20,000.00 grant from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation, for the Versailles EMS location exterior remodel.

Mr. Huffman spoke with Ron Decker last week and wants Mr. Huffman to start looking at new ambulances.

Economic Development – Gary Norman

Mr. Norman came in to talk about the SEI READI Board. It is made up of 6 counties and 6 private sectors of the counties.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to have Commissioner Horstman be the Ripley County Local Elected Official representative, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to have Barry Lauber as the Ripley County Private Sector representative, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman.

Motion passed 2 yes 1 abstain.

*Commissioner Schmaltz asked Attorney Ertel about the weed board. Attorney Ertel stated that he has been working on the paperwork that needs to be completed.

*The Commissioners discussed FMLA and Long term disability.


*The Commissioners also discussed the Extension Office, the worker and the director and the laws the county have to follow to run the Extension Office.

*The Commissioners discussed compensation time, vacation time, personal time and sick time. They also discussed exempt and nonexempt employees.

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


Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve meeting minutes October 18, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner made the motion to adjourn, **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