

# Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

## August 23, 2021

### Pledge of Allegiance

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

### Maintenance – Craig Herbert & Housekeeping – Kim Johnson

Mr. Herbert stated that the air conditioning went out in the EMA Office. They got it fixed for a while, but will cost \$880.00 to be replaced.

Mr. Herbert also stated that the annex chiller has a leak in it. He also stated that they were going to try and let it go until cooler weather to fix.

Mr. Herbert brought in 2 quotes for shelving in the Clerk's Office Election storage room, one from Uline for \$1,119.53 and another from Granger \$2,013.99.

Ms. Johnson came in needing toilet paper dispensers for the bathrooms in the courthouse. She is needing 8 total for \$25.00 a piece.

Ms. Johnson also asked about the Pumpkin Show and cleaning the bathrooms. The Commissioners stated that during the week if you have to stay over compensation time is fine, but on Saturday and Sunday the Lion's Club will be paying you.

Ms. Johnson stated that she thinks Judge King has mold growing in his courtroom. The Commissioners told Ms. Johnson to get a dehumidifier for the room.

Ms. Johnson asked about the trash. She stated that the maintenance man was in charge of the trash. She is wanting to know who is in charge of it. Commissioner Horstman stated that we need to look into a cart for Ms. Johnson to bring the trash over to the annex where the dumpster is. Commissioner Hankins stated for them to work together and get the job done.

Commissioner Horstman stated that he heard from Ms. Swinney, housekeeping in annex, and she was released from the hospital and goes back to the doctor on Wednesday 8/26/2021.

### Veteran's Office – Ken Hylton

Mr. Hylton was in to see if he could use the Commissioner's Room on September 22, 2021 for a Southeastern District Service Officers Meeting.

Mr. Hylton also stated that he and Mr. Adams will be going through training to help veterans here locally.

Mr. Hylton stated that they have had a couple hits on the van that is on the online auction.

Mr. Hylton stated out on Negangards Corner they had weak signals for their Wi-Fi to get online.

Commissioner Hankins stated that lifeline is available to veterans.

### Clerk Office – Ginger Bradford & Diane Macek

Ms. Macek stated that the state wants consistency on the voter districts. The state just wants a form signed and sent to them.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to leave the voter precincts the same, to sign a form the state wants and send back to the state, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horstman asked about the \$2,400.00 appropriated amount from the sale of voter tables. The Commissioners asked if the Clerk's Office could come up with \$1,000.00 to help pay for the shelves in the new storage room.

Commissioner Hankins wanted to know how close we are that we can go to any precinct to vote. Ms. Macek stated that the voter election board thinks this area is too rural for that, and we have put the voting in any precinct to vote on hold.

### **Discussion**

Attorney Ertel brought in the Board of Commissioners Drainage Board finding for Mr. Baker and Mrs. Henson. The Commissioners signed the finding.

Attorney Ertel also brought in an easement with Canaan Water.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the Right-Of-Way Easement with Canaan Water Company for waterline through 3 properties, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to rescind the motion to approve the Right-Of-Way Easement with Canaan Water Company, **Action:** Rescind, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horstman brought up an email he received about a paid maternity leave. Discussion was had and more research needs done and discussion will continue when the research is done.

### **Highway – Ray Toops**

Mr. Toops stated they sent out a request for bridge inspection proposal. Mr. Toops stated they sent it to DLZ, with denial, BFS Engineering, no response, McClain & Company, Beam, Longest & Neff, & USI. The Commissioners have to rate the companies. The ratings have to be sent into the state by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October. The highest rating company will then send a quote and you can negotiate that quote. Commissioner Horstman stated he thinks that the 3 Commissioners, 1 Superintendent, and 2 Foremen should give a rating. The Commissioners stated this year the 3 of them would be the only ones rating.

Mr. Toops stated Allen's Crossing was completed on Thursday. Mr. Toops stated the project looks really good and 100% better than it was. The Highway is going to put some bumper barriers in and the railroad will put rock in the area.

Mr. Toops stated that they did 11 ¾ of gravel road to chip and seal and 41 miles of asphalt chip and seal. Commissioner Horstman stated he heard from Duane Swingle and he would like his road chip and sealed. The Commissioners stated that they would look into his road next year.

Mr. Toops stated they started on a dirt project on 900 South. The dirt will not be put in people's yard due to the trash that is in the ditches. They will have to come back to do rock.

Commissioner Hankins wanted to know if there is anything for dust. Mr. Toops stated yes there are a few things that can be used.

Commissioner Hankins told Mr. Toops the roads look really good and people are pleased.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked if Mr. Kissell had an inventory list and Mr. Toops stated he did have it all in line.

### **Johnson/Melloh – Rick Anderson & Mark Frost**

Mr. Anderson brought in an energy savings project for the Ripley County Commissioners. Johnson/Melloh is a company that uses solar. Commissioner Hankins asked if they really think they can replace it for 1.1 million.

Mr. Frost stated yes they could. Commissioner Schmaltz stated that he likes what has been put together. The

Commissioners asked a lot of questions to Mr. Anderson & Mr. Frost. The Commissioners stated they wanted to discuss this proposal and for them to come back in a month.

#### **Southeastern Regional Planning Commission – Mary McCarty & Economic Development – Gary Norman**

Mr. Norman and Ms. McCarty are here to talk to the Commissioners about a comprehensive plan. The last comprehensive plan the county had was in 2003. Ms. McCarty stated that the Commissioners need to update their comprehensive plan. Ms. McCarty does not think the OCRA approach is the right approach. Ms. McCarty gave a couple of consultants, TPMA & HWC Engineering. Ms. McCarty stated that the cost could be \$70,000.00 to \$150,000.00 estimated. Ms. McCarty stated that Shelby County has an updated one and Dearborn County is in the process. The 2003 comprehensive plan was given to the 3 Commissioners.

#### **Health Department – Lexi Bushhorn & Dr. David Welsh**

Ms. Bushhorn was in with an update of COVID. Commissioner Hankins asked if we knew what test are given to determine if it is the delta variant or the COVID19? The Ripley County Health Department does not know what our patients would have. Ms. Bushhorn stated that we do have one school that is suffering. Dr. Welsh stated that he is meeting with the school boards and the athletic directors. Ms. Bushhorn stated they are getting multiple calls about Milan not excepting walk-ins. Mr. Huffman stated that no one should be turned away. Ms. Bushhorn stated they also found a replacement for the Ripley County Health Board.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Dr. Amy Glaser-Carpenter to the Ripley County Health Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Court Services – Shannon Schmaltz**

Mr. Schmaltz came in to tell the Commissioners that he is appreciative of them looking into the heating/cooling of the courthouse.

Commissioner Horstman asked about the paying of COVID time off. The Commissioners stated that the COVID time off was expired.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Mark Horstman Mark Horstman, President

Chris Schmaltz Chris Schmaltz

Kendall Hankins Kendall Hankins

Assts: Amy R Copeland Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor