

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

August 09, 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 brought in a quote from Dunlap, in the amount of \$716.96 for a new hi-pressure switch in the annex. Commissioner Horstman stated to pay for it out of Cum Cap.

Commissioner Hankins asked about the Circuit Court judge's room. Ms. Meyer had contacted him about the floor being wavy from the heat/air unit water leak. Commissioner Hankins is stating that we may be looking at a floor fix. Attorney Ertel reminded the Commissioner that we had a conversation with Bakertilly about the heating/cooling units and the air ventilation.

Commissioner Hankins told Mr. Herbert to reach out to PSI about a quote to check the structure of the building and air quality.

Commissioner Horstman stated that Judge Sharp came to him about the heating/cooling units also.

Mr. Herbert brought in a price for mold test kits to test some places in the courthouse.

Highway – Ray Toops

Commissioner Horstman stated that a gentleman called from the Sunman area about a concrete driveway. Attorney Ertel also asked Mr. Toops about County Road 1200 North and the pot holes in the road.

Mr. Toops stated they have about 4 more miles of chip and sealing left.

Mr. Toops stated that the arrival of the tractor should be today, 8/9/2021. Mr. Toops stated that it will take a couple of days to get ready (radio, steal pieces, etc.). Commissioner Hankins asked about the mower that was broke down, and Mr. Toops stated it is running good. Commissioner Schmaltz asked who would be driving the new tractor, and Mr. Toops told him Patrick Miller.

Mr. Toops stated that he should know more about the 200 South project soon. With the road work, the stone shoulders, and grader patching the estimate is \$43,000.00.

Mr. Toops stated they are closing 129 North and the unofficial detour will be 700 North to 350 East, to Old Milan Road for 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Toops stated that he got ahold of a project engineer with CXS on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Commissioner Hankins also talked to the railroad police that may have helped with the problem.

Commissioner Hankins asked about the Johnson grass on the side of the roads. Mr. Toops told him it has been a problem, and the problem is worse down south than up north.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the July 26, 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 and payroll, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Commissioner Horstman stated the Sheriff contacted him about a unit that needed replaced, and Commissioner Horstman stated for the Sheriff to replace it.

Attorney Ertel brought up our conversation with Bakertilly on the EMS building renovation. Bakertilly stated that we could use ARP money for the EMS renovation, but we may want to contact a lawyer on the discussion of the project before ARP money is used.

Drainage Board Hearing - Baker/Henson

Mr. French, County Surveyor, stated that on May 8, 2021 a drainage complaint was filed by Willard Baker against Shirley Henson. The address is 4562 North Old Milan Road, Milan, IN 47031. Mr. French stated that the Commissioners can act on the complaint. There is a small dam on west side of the pond. The small dam is within 10 feet of the Baker property line. The small dam previously included a cut/ditch so that storm water could flow from the Baker property onto the Henson property and into the pond. Mr. Baker told me that the ditch was filled by a family member of Ms. Henson this spring, which caused the ponding of water onto his property. Mr. French states the ditch should be reopened by, or at the expense of Ms. Henson so that the storm water can continue its natural flow into the Henson pond.

Mr. Baker spoke on the matter and stated the same as Mr. French. Mr. Baker stated that Ms. Henson's family member worked on the ditch and the ground is now dry. Mr. Baker is happy and satisfied as long as the ground stays dry.

Ms. Henson's son, Tony, stated he was trying to help and made it worse, but has fixed it now and the ground is staying dry.

Mr. French, County Surveyor, stated that if both neighbors agree, the issue should be taken care of.

Attorney Ertel stated that he will get a letter wrote up with the hearing findings for the Commissioners to sign at the next meeting.

General Public – Eric Goddard

Mr. Goddard was in about a drainage issue on his property at 3616 W CR 450 S, Versailles, IN 47042. Mr. Goddard stated that the farm is bringing to much water onto his land. Attorney Ertel stated that this is not an issue the Commissioners can help with, due to natural drainage.

Discussion

Commissioner Horstman stated that he wrote a letter for EMS for a grant with the Rising Sun Regional Foundation.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that he has talked to Mr. Hardy about the euthanasia of dogs and Standard Fertilizer will not take them any longer if they have medicine in them. Attorney Ertel did read some laws on what the Commissioners options are.

Commissioner Horstman stated that if Mr. Hardy needs more space and money then the council may want to have a dog tax enforced.

Attorney Ertel stated that in his opinion the county was given notice by the Town of Osgood in good standards.

Dog Warden – Perry Hardy

Mr. Hardy stated that if a dog is euthanized with a medicine, Standard Fertilizer will not accept them any longer. Mr. Hardy stated that he called the vet, and it is \$58 for a 35 and under pound dog, and \$78 for a 35 and over pound dog, to cremate them. Commissioner Hankins asked about how many dogs have had to be put down. Mr. Hardy stated he has only put down 9-10 dogs since he has been the dog warden. Commissioner Hankins believes that the dogs should be euthanized and then cremated. Mr. Hardy stated that he is having problems with pit bull dogs. Councilman Decker asked how many dogs he had picked up in 3 years. Mr. Hardy stated that he estimated 300 dogs in 3 years. In the last month Mr. Hardy has taken 6 dogs to the Humane Society. The Commissioners are willing to pay the Humane Society the rest of their \$7,000.00, which is \$3,500.00. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Hardy is to put the dog down by euthanasia, and then cremate them.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked if Mr. Hardy had heard anything about issues in Milan, and Mr. Hardy stated yes, they are having issues. Commissioner Schmaltz stated that he has been telling them to go to town council.

Health Department – Dr. Welsh

Dr. Welsh came in to let the Commissioners know that the COVID numbers are going up in Ripley County. Dr. Welsh stated that there will be a change come Wednesday, at noon. Dr. Welsh stated that the county has hit a plateau with vaccinations. Dr. Welsh has asked that everyone get vaccinated. Commissioner Hankins asked Dr. Welsh what his thought is on mandatory vaccines, and he is in favor of it. Dr. Welsh stated he just wants to see the kids in school, and he doesn't want to see them have to close.


Commissioners Hankins wanted to know what the percentage of herd immunity is. Dr. Welsh stated that that percentage is about 50%.

Commissioner Hankins asked Dr. Welsh about what his thoughts were about the border being open. Dr. Welsh stated he has been talking to his boards about the border.

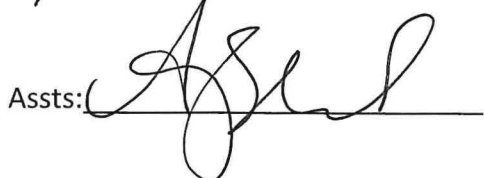
Commissioner Hankins asked about the vacancy on the Health Board, and Dr. Welsh stated he is trying to find a doctor.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins 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