

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

January 19, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Maintenance — Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert stated that the snow removal went well this morning and during the day.

Mr. Herbert stated to the Commissioners that he would have to get another skid of salt from Versailles Farm Garden.

Treasurer — Lisa Vestal

Ms. Vestal came in for the Board of Finance Meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the Board of Finance Report, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the January 5, 2024 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.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to appoint Mark Corner & Barry Lauber to the Ripley County Redevelopment Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway — Jason Edwards

Mr. Edwards got a quote on replacement cameras.

Mr. Edwards brought in a copy of the chip and seal roads.

Mr. Edwards will pick up the 2 new pickup trucks and a new dump truck.

Commissioner Hankins asked about Hopewell Road that goes by Tyson Gym if it is the Town of Versailles' or the County's. This should be a Town of Versailles road and not a County road. Commissioner Hankins called the Town of Versailles and stated that the Town is under the understanding the Town stops at the culvert.

Mr. Edwards stated that the garage remodel is done.

Commissioner Schmaltz talked about the Solar Eclipse and closing 25 south and Perry Street. This is still being discussed.

Health Insurance — Patti Perry

Ms. Perry came in to give a financial update on the Health Insurance.

Solar Ordinance

Attorney Pat McGrath took the place of Attorney John Ertel during the Solar Ordinance presentation.

The Commissioners discussed the Solar Ordinance and the amendments they want to make. This is all on a recording.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to Require the Ripley County Area Plan Commission to prepare the following Amendment to the Ripley County Zoning Ordinance Section 80.50 Solar Energy Systems (SES)

1. Subsection (A) add "This section is not intended to regulate or allow the use of land as a Commercial Energy Storage Facility. Commercial Energy Storage Facilities must comply with all requirements of the Ripley County Zoning Ordinance."
2. Subsection (D)(1)(b)(i) strike "fifteen (15)" and add "twenty (20)."
3. Subsection (D)(4) strike "cannot be located in a front yard and must comply with the side yard and rear" and add "must comply with all."
4. Subsection (E)(4)(e) strike "(ii) Collector roads shall be a minimum of thirty (30) feet. (iii) Local roads shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet."
5. Subsection (E)(4)(f) strike "two hundred and fifty (250) feet" and add "four hundred (400) feet. This setback may be waived by a non-participating landowner filing a written waiver with the zoning administrator or body."
6. Subsection (E)(5) strike "(b) SES screening shall be considered a Primary SES structure and shall meet all set back requirements for Primary SES structures provided by this ordinance. See Section E(4)."
7. Subsection (E)(10) strike "(b) SES fencing shall be considered a Primary SES structure and shall meet all set back requirements for Primary SES structures provided by this ordinance. See Section E(4)."

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

General Public — Bill Warren

Mr. Warren was in about the County Park Board. Mr. Warren was in to talk to the Commissioners about his dismissal of the Park Board. The Commissioners wanted to thank him for his community service. Mr. Warren wanted the Commissioners to change the appointment. The Commissioners stated they made a motion and they are going to stick with their decision.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked what we needed to do with the county employees on April 8, 2024 when the solar eclipse happens. The Commissioners stated to put it on the next agenda.

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