

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

March 28, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mark Horstman, President, Chris Schmaltz, Amy Copeland, Auditor, and Attorney, John Ertel.

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert was in to give the Commissioners a quote to fix the hot water pump in the Annex. The quote is from Dunlap and it is for \$1,117.05. The Commissioners told him to fix the pump.

Mr. Herbert brought it to the Commissioner's attention that the elevator to the fire wall needs to be corrected when the renovation is done. Mr. Herbert is working on the quote for this to be done.

Sheriff – Rob Bradley

Sheriff Bradley brought in a document that is signed by an ex-Commissioner for inmates to have Medicare and Medicaid.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion for Commissioner Horstman to sign the contract between Indiana Family and Social Services Administration and the County Executive to participate in additional health coverage opportunities with the changes and additions that need to be done, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Davidson brought in information about the cameras for the judges. This is for the 2 cameras in the Commissioner's room and the hall. The quote is for wiring, monitors and cameras for the amount of \$11,019.73.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve quotes for TVs, wiring, and cameras. Quote #2076 for \$3,589.94, #2075 for \$789.97 and #2226 for \$3,035.00, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway – Jason Edwards

Mr. Edwards stated that the mowers are mowing the county roads.

Mr. Edwards stated that the bridge on 550 S is almost complete.

Mr. Edwards stated that he met with USI about bridge 133 in Brownstown. The Historical Society needs pictures of the bridge from 1926 to now.

Mr. Edwards stated that we should know about the Community Crossing Matching Grant by April. Mr. Edwards also stated that the Rising Sun Regional Foundation gave the Highway a \$28,000.00 grant for 2 shoulder boxes and 1 center box.

Veregy – Art Noel & Rick Anderson & Total Tech – Matt Cunningham

Mr. Noel gave an update on the courthouse renovation.

The Commissioners looked at the lease agreement with J & S French, LLC.

Mr. Cunningham from Total Tech stated that the lease agreement for the house that J & S French are leasing to the county has to have internet. Internet will cost the county \$400.00 a month.

The Commissioners have asked Total Tech to look into a point to point for the internet.

Solar Ordinance

Attorney John Ertel excused himself from the conversation.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins 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** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to reject #8 that states Setbacks of all Primary SES structures from all: Public Roadways designated in the Ripley County Indiana Throughfare Plan shall be a minimum of Forty (40) Feet from the Proposed or Dedicated Right-of-Way noted thereon, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

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

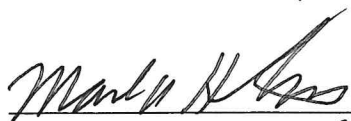
Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve March 15, 2024 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Horstman and Attorney John Ertel talked about the ordinance that needs to be changed on the political signs. Attorney Ertel stated that the ordinance should mimic the state. He also talked to the attorney about how things are being handle in the Area Planning Office.

Commissioner Hankins stated that Michelle Smith got into contact with him about putting pinwheels in the courthouse yard for child abuse prevention. The Commissioners have no problem with them putting the pinwheels in the lawn.

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