

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

November 27, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Commissioner Hankins stated the town put the parking lot on the North side of the building on hold. There is a town right away back there and we can not put a parking lot on that property. Ms. Wehr is in contact with Duke about moving the EV charger somewhere else in the town.

Commissioner Hankins thinks we need to get into contact with the Town of Versailles about putting a parking lot on the North side of the building. Mr. Herbert stated he will call Johanigan Construction to see if they can give us a couple more weeks. Commissioner Hankins stated he will go to the Town of Versailles meeting to try and get the right of way to put the parking lot in.

Sheriff – Rob Bradley

Sheriff Bradley stated that they purchased 2 new AEDs for the Jail. The cost of the AEDs for the jail were \$3,216.00. Sheriff Bradley would like to extend his 79 hours of vacation to next year. The Commissioners have extended this time to June 30, 2024.

Sheriff Bradley would like to get the nurse off of the Sheriff/Jail staff and put her on a contract. He is going to get more information on the cost and some quotes for the Commissioners to make a decision.

Attorney Ertel brought in a new longevity ordinance. Sheriff Bradley was not able to look at it before the meeting. He will look at it and bring back to the next meeting.

Highway – Meredith Huntington

Commissioner Horstman stated that 25 South looks good. Mr. Huntington stated that the Busching Bridge is now all cleaned up the way the Commissioners asked for them to do.

Mr. Huntington stated that the county is working on 700 South right now.

The tractor and bushhog are still on the county's auction site.

Wreaths across Ripley County – Owen Menchhofer

Mr. Menchhofer is wanting to put about 50 wreaths around the courthouse and annex. The Commissioners gave Mr. Menchhofer their permission to put the wreaths around the courthouse and annex.

Commissioner Hankins stated that Ms. Wehr got the new benches in for the courthouse square.

Commissioner Hankins brought in a resignation letter from Glen Kamman and an appointment for Christiane Geary for the Friendship Sewer Board.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to appoint Christiane Geary to the Friendship Sewer Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the November 13, 2023 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.

LINK101 – Doug Rump

Mr. Rump is from Olean and is here to talk about LINK101. Mr. Rump stated that there are 10 routes and 2 go through Ripley County. Mr. Rump gave some information on this project. Mr. Rump does intend to come back in January to get a resolution signed against the LINK101.

Mr. Mike Zins, Ms. Madison Stegelle, Mr. Kurt Kohlmeier, & Ms. Kim Wolfort gave their opinion on the LINK101.

Airwave Networks - Trent Linville

Mr. Linville is asking to use the county right away for underground fiber on 925 North, 975 North, 1050 North, 100 West and Finks road. Mr. Linville is a public utility. Mr. Linville is going to boar conduit. This will benefit, at this time, about 72 people.

The Commissioners asked for a bond and insurance and to walk the right away access with Mr. Jason Edwards, Highway Superintendent.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Airwave Network to use the counties right away for underground fiber contingent on submitting bond and confirming right of way with Mr. Jason Edwards, Highway Superintendent, and a before and after of the job with Mr. Jason Edwards, Highway Superintendent., **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes and 1 abstain.

Area Planning – Tad Brinson

Attorney Pat McGrath, stand in attorney for the Commissioners, gave the update on the solar zoning code amendment. The only section that was amended was the setback section. There was much discussion on the setbacks to the solar ordinance. Area and Planning voted 7 no, 2 yes on the ordinance with the setbacks of 200 feet. There were numerous public comments about the solar ordinance for and against. All 3 Commissioners gave their opinion on the ordinance. Commissioner Hankins stated that he would listen to anyone one on one for or against the ordinance.

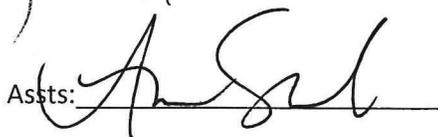
Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to table the ordinance to the next meeting of December 11, 2023, **Action:** Tabled, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

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