

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

October 16, 2023

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 has been in contact with Duke about the electric charger in the new back parking lot. We are just waiting on Duke to get started on the parking lot.

Mr. Herbert has gotten a quote from Cintas for cleaning supplies for \$51.73, Plymate quote is \$311.95 per month. The Commissioners have tabled this until the next meeting on October 30, 2023.

Mr. Herbert stated that the electric was out in town on Saturday and caused a mess, but everything is back up and running.

Area Planning – Tad Brinson

Mr. Brinson brought in an amendment to Zone Code adding Section 80.50 Solar Energy Systems (SES).

Attorney Pat Magrath was present to replace Attorney John Ertel due to a conflict of interest.

Attorney Magrath gave a background on the solar ordinance and gave a background on the solar codes set by the state. Commissioner Horstman, Schmaltz, and Hankins gave their opinion on the ordinance.

Commissioner Horstman did ask for public comment. There were numerous members of the public for it and against it that got up and spoke on behalf of the Solar Energy Systems.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to send the ordinance back to the Area Planning to make the setbacks to the ordinance to mirror the state code IC 8-1-42-10, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed 2 yes 1 no.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to extend the moratorium for the solar ordinance until December 31, 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed unanimously.

Henriott Group – Ryan Secord

Mr. Secord came in to introduce his self to the Commissioners for the insurance. He is wanting to bid out the health insurance. The Commissioners gave Mr. Secord permission to bid the health insurance out.

Wreaths across America – Owen Menchhofer

Mr. Menchhofer is asking to use the courthouse lawn on December 16, 2023 at noon.

Park – Owen Menchhofer & Christi Volz

Mr. Menchhofer stated that on Sunday, October 15, 2023, there were 2 adults on the grounds skateboarding in the goat barn. Mr. Menchhofer is wanting to know how the food pantry at the Park works for the county. Ms. Volz came in to talk to the Commissioners about what has been going on at the Park.

General Public – Owen Menchhofer

Mr. Menchhofer stated that county road 300 West was paved, and the job done was nice other than the berm. The edges really need to be fixed.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the October 2, 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.

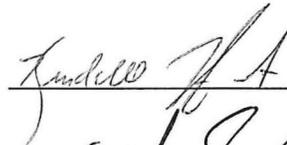
Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the employee healthcare plan changes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the 2024 yearly schedules, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. 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