

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

February 18, 2021 ^{AL}

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert came in about the bottom of the annex building and getting it cleaned. The Commissioners stated to get a couple quotes on the cleaning.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Herbert about putting the old maintenance truck on the online auction. Mr. Herbert stated that he has given the information to Ms. Cairns in IT to put on the auction.

Mr. Herbert stated that he got the EMA and Dispatch new lights in.

Mr. Herbert was in to tell the Commissioners the water softener at the jail is working properly.

Mr. Herbert asked to take the tree out from between the two maintenance driveways. The Commissioners told Mr. Herbert to take the tree out.

Area Planning – Tad Brinson

Mr. Brinson brought in a rezone for 412 Six Pine Ranch Road, Batesville, IN 47006. They are wanting it rezoned from R-1 Residential District to Roadside Business.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to rezone 412 Six Pine Ranch Road, Batesville, IN 47006, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

The Commissioners are wanting the Comprehensive Plan updated. The Towns and the Commissioners are the ones that have to update it.

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth stated that the jail had a heat exchanger go down. To fix the heat exchanger it would be \$13,000.00 for Dunlap to fix. The water softener is going to be checked again today, but if it isn't working today it will need to be replaced. Commissioner Horstman stated to replace the water softener and the exchanger and pay for it out of Cum Cap.

Public – Renee Jackson

Ms. Jackson owns property on Short Street. Ms. Jackson stated that the filling station is putting a lot of junk cars in the community. Ms. Jackson has been to the Town of Osgood about the junk cars. Ms. Jackson was told to file a complaint at the Area Planning Department. Ms. Jackson stated that the Area Planning would let her file a complaint on the Short Street property but not on the 421 property across the street. Mr. Brinson came down from the Area Planning and gave the Commissioners and update on what has been done. Mr. Brinson stated that the owner has been notified of the complaints. Mr. Brinson stated that the town will have to enforce the issue after 30 days.

Public – Lorrie Houck

Ms. Houck came in about a housekeeping job. The Commissioners did talk to her about being on call when the housekeepers go on vacation, but as of right now the employees of the annex and the courthouse housekeeper are going to keep up with the cleaning of the annex. Ms. Houck stated that she has not done any housecleaning, but is interested in doing the on call part time fill in.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the February 7, 2022 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the claims and payroll, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

Laughery Valley Ag – Keith Moon

Mr. Moon brought in fuel prices and their off-road diesel is \$3.0001 per gallon, on road diesel \$3.5271 per gallon and gas is \$3.3177 per gallon.

Motion: Commissioner Horstman made the motion to contract 60% of our fuel gallons, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mark Horstman, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

Highway Department – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops wants the Commissioners to review the USI bridge inspection forms that were sent to them. A decision can be made at the next Commissioner's meeting. The cost of the contract is \$258,307.00 for a 4-year cycle.

Mr. Toops stated they got an estimate for the Kenworth that was in the accident. The estimate is \$46,228.00. The truck is not totaled.

Mr. Toops also talked to the Commissioners about the hiring of the individual that does work part time for the EMS. Auditor Copeland has talked to the State Board of Accounts and they state that the individual can do that. Attorney Ertel asked for me to get it in writing from the State Board of Accounts.

There were two letters sent to the Auditor's office about the roads not being in good shape during the ice and snow storm, but we have no idea who it was from due to the fact the letters were not signed. Commissioner Horstman stated that if you want to complain please come to the Commissioner's meeting to put the complaint in.

Commissioner Schmaltz did mention the flooding of county roads from February 17, 2022.

Civista – Rhonda Sheely with Financial Wellness Plan

Ms. Sheely was in about the Civista Bank Financial Wellness Plan. This is no charge to the county. Civista Bank will follow up with the Auditor about other HSA advantages they have available.

REMC – Bryan Miller & Keith Mathews

SEI Data – Adam Peetz & Tony Clark

Mr. Miller was in about getting a grant from the ARP money in the county for fiber internet. The cost to do 18.1 miles is 1.874 million dollars. REMC is asking for a 50/50 cost share. Commissioner Horstman thinks that there needs to be a cost share with the Town of Holton.

Public – Patty Hull

Ms. Hull stated that they have a berm on 931 N Old Michigan Road, Holton, IN 47023. The Highway garage has been putting down creek rock on the side of the roads. The Commissioners told Ms. Hull that they would make sure they told the highway superintendent.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve PennCare Emergency Vehicle Purchase Agreement, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Ripley County and Margaret Mary Hospital, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

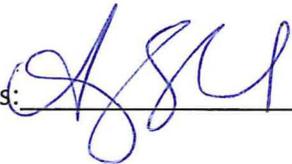
The Commissioners did discuss the Alcohol Beverage Board and an appointment for the board. The Commissioners are going to think about this and discuss at the next meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed 2 yes 1 absent.

 Mark Horstman, President

 Chris Schmaltz

 Kendall Hankins

Assts:  Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor