

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

February 6, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mark Horstman, President, Chris Schmaltz, Kendall Hankins, Danielle McGee, Deputy Auditor & John Ertel, County Attorney.

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert mentioned that there should be enough money in Kim Johnson's budget to fix her vacuum. The Commissioners told Mr. Herbert to order the cart, which is \$700-\$800, and pay it out of the commissioners' budget. Mr. Herbert brought in a quote for rebuild parts to fix the faucets in the jail for \$1,665.60. Mr. Herbert received a quote of \$4,000 from Stanley for six cameras at the jail. Mr. Herbert is waiting to hear back from Technology to get a quote from the company they use. Mr. Herbert talked about the A/C units at the jail. There are four A/C units on the roof that will need to be replaced soon. Mr. Herbert stated that it could take 6 to 8 months to get a unit and they are roughly \$60,000 per unit. Mr. Herbert mentioned his open position is still posted. Commissioner Hankins said leave it open until filled. Mr. Herbert mentioned that we will do our own mowing this year along with weeding.

Area & Planning – Tad Brinson & Chris Proctor

Mr. Brinson mentioned that Mr. Chris Proctor is present and is a person of interest to fill the BZH board position. He has lived in the area for 6 years and Mr. Jeff French had asked him if he would be interested in sitting on the board. **Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion for Mr. Proctor to fill the open BZH board position **Action:** Approve **Moved by** Commissioner Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Commissioner Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk - Liz Baumgartner

Ms. Baumgartner was in to get the polling location approved in Batesville for the city election and needs the commissioners' signature for that. Ms. Baumgartner mentioned she has a resolution for a vote study for voting centers in the county. Ms. Baumgartner mentioned she would like to get the polling locations condensed to 8 locations for election day only. **Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the polling locations in Batesville and the resolution of the polling location study **Action:** Approve **Moved by** Commissioner Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Commissioner Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway – Jason Edwards

Mr. Edwards was in to talk about the State Road 350 closure. The road closure will begin on February 20, 2023. Mr. Edwards was asking about applying for the Rising Sun Regional Grant to get funding to get new pickup trucks. Mr. Edwards stated that he has 4 quotes on a new pickup truck. Mr. Edwards stated that he prefers to get a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck not a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck so they can pull a trailer. Mr. Edwards prefers to get one for the North and one for the South. The quote to upgrade is \$2,000 more per vehicle. Mr. Edwards stated he will be getting quotes for plows. He talked about the camera issue and them not working. Mr. Edwards would like to have monitors. Commissioner Schmaltz recommended that Mr. Edwards should talk to Kenny Bowling from the Parks Department or Becky Cairns in Technology to see where she got theirs. Mr. Edwards is hearing

complaints about the assigned trucks for North going South and vice versa. The Commissioners said it is one county and those that are not complying need to be reprimanded. Mr. Edwards stated that he is waiting on INDOT regarding the reimbursement for Michigan Road & 200 South. Mr. Edwards stated that the tractor guys, in the North & the South, are parking the tractors at their home and will have a driver take them to the tractor from the shop. Mr. Edwards stated he is losing 8 hours a day between the all the drivers taking them back and forth. In addition, to the mower guys losing 2 hours of mowing time. Commissioner Horstman wants Mr. Edwards to find the best and efficient way to handle this issue.

Mr. Edwards mentioned Pacer training and what budget he should use to pay for it. Commissioner Hankins said to pay it out of the highway budget. Mr. Edwards stated that Mr. Huffman from EMS is setting up CPR, AED, and stop the bleed, bloodborne pathogen training in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Edwards mentioned that Asphalt Material will be doing a chip and seal seminar on March 21, 2023. Mr. Edwards stated that the Osgood Fire Department will be coming out in the next couple of weeks to conduct fire management training for his employees.

Mr. Edwards stated that the cinders will run out in 3 years and that he is checking with New Trenton Quarry in Harrison to see how much they are. The Commissioners said to go ahead and order the new trucks since the money is in the budget. Commissioner Hankins mentioned to Mr. Edwards to look at 800 S and 200 N regarding the berms. Mr. Edwards mentioned that they fixed the issue in the shop bathrooms and that the framing of the break room wall will take place this week. Commissioner Horstman wants to make sure when someone leaves the county that they pay them out their last payroll. This will save the county liability and money.

Sheriff – Rob Bradley & Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Sheriff Bradley talked about the improvements at the jail with the cameras and the A/C units. He discussed a quote for body cameras from Motorola for a 5-year contract at \$50,000 and a quote from Axon for \$80,000. The quotes do not include the same services. Sheriff Bradley wanted to know if the unrestricted opioid money, could be used to purchased body cameras. Commissioner Horstman said \$25,000 is unrestricted and could also use some restricted money. John Ertel will check to see if they can use this money for body cameras. Commissioner Horstman recommended to reach out to the Sheriff Association to see if there are any grants they can apply for.

Commissioner Horstman brought up the roof and the A/C units at the jail. Mr. Herbert said he talked to Travis Mazingo from Dunlap today and \$75,000 should cover 2 units. The Sheriff said to put in new A/C units first then fix the roof. Commissioner Horstman asked if we can get by another year since they are looking at the courthouse project. Commissioners approved for the Sheriff to get new cameras for the jail. Commissioner Horstman wants to get a project going to look at the room and A/C units for the jail.

Commissioner Horstman wants to address the expenditures limit for the jail. Sheriff Bradley & Mr. Herbert want to know if it is under a certain dollar amount, can they purchase without the Commissioners' approval. Commissioner Horstman is fine with them spending \$1,000 without their approval, but would still like for them to contact the Commissioners to let them know. Commissioner Hankins asked about the personnel issue and his openings. Sheriff said he has 4 openings on the road. He currently has an employee on the road that is applying at the state. He did hire 1 Deputy and has another candidate. Deputy Sergeant Houseworth

plans to retire sometime in 2024. The Sheriff will follow up on body camera money and grants. Commissioners said if they can wait 24-48 hours to buy the cameras for the jail, then get another quote. If not, go with the quote Mr. Herbert currently has.

Town of Osgood – Stephanie Back / DNR – Garrett & Alex / Town of Versailles – Holly Wehr

They are here about the trail expansion project in Osgood of 1 ¼ mile. Through the DNR at Versailles – putting in parking lot near the town of Osgood. They want commissioners to consider where it will be located and supporting the project. Garrett from the DNR mentioned it could be located on the Finks Road side of the park where they currently have a deer park. Looking for a way for people to access that side of the park. They would like for the Commissioners to have a trail or easement to access the park to the Osgood Trails and have part of the county road near 300 N and Finks Road chip and sealed where it is currently graveled, add signage, and possibly widening the road in the future. The DNR is looking at different pay stations as this location is outside the main gate of the park. Commissioner Horstman gave his support for them to connect the trails. The Town of Osgood is applying for a grant through the DNR on their trail expansion.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Commissioner Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the January 23, 2023 Executive Session meeting, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Commissioner Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Commissioner Hankins, **Seconded by** Commissioner Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

 _____ Mark Horstman, President

 _____ Chris Schmaltz

_____ Kendall Hankins

Assts:  _____ Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor

