

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

January 11, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

-Open floor for nominations for Commissioner President. Commissioner Schmaltz nominated Commissioner Horstman for president.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Commissioner Horstman as President of the Commissioner Board for the year of 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed unanimously.

Boards Commissioners sit on:

Commissioner Horstman – Southeaster Recycling Board

Commissioner Schmaltz – Ripley County Park Board

Commissioner Hankins – Economic Development Board

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion for the Commissioners to sit on the above boards, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert stated that the air handlers needed to be checked and Jackson Systems is coming to look at them.

Commissioner Horstman ask Craig Herbert to please bring in a list of things that he thought might need to be done for the year 2021.

Commissioner Hankins asked Mr. Herbert to put the flags at half-staff.

Concerned Citizen - Keith Scott

Mr. Scott came in with concern of road 450S, 550S, and Michigan Road that has a large drop off. Mr. Scott gave the Commissioners some ideas that the highway department could do. The Commissioners stated that they are looking into the matter.

Building Inspector – Dwight Bauman

Mr. Bauman came in to introduce his self due to not being able to be here at 9:30.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz moved to approve the December 28, 2020 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve Commissioner Horstman to the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Board, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioners discussed Families First Coronavirus Response Act and to extend the time off for the employees that need time for COVID19.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to extend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to January 31, 2021, (for employees only, up to two (2) weeks, for those employees who have not already used said benefit, and qualify for it pursuant to Resolutions 2020-1 and 2020-2, and reevaluate at the first February meeting. This would not include the ten (10) week period for child care. **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth did not have any business but wanted to introduce himself to the 2 new commissioners.

Housekeeping – Theresa Swinney

Miss. Swinney came in to introduce herself to the new commissioners. She is one of the commissioner's appointments.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops talked to the commissioners about the Community Crossings Grant. Mr. Toops gave the commissioners some quotes on things they can do with the Community Crossings Grant. Mr. Toops brought up the vehicles (Durango, Charger, EMS Vehicle & Ford Explorer) that the garage checked for the county commissioners. The county commissioners are going to keep the 09' Durango and are going to sell the Charger (\$1,000 starting bid), EMS Vehicle (\$1,000 starting bid) & Ford Explorer (\$250 starting bid) on the Ripley County online auction.

2021 Commissioner Appointments:

All employees introduced their selves, except for Mr. Randy Miller and Mr. Perry Hardy, they were both absent.

County Attorney – Mr. John Ertel

Maintenance – Mr. Craig Herbert

Housekeeping – Ms. Kim Johnson (Courthouse)

Ms. Theresa G Swinney (Annex)

Building Inspector – Mr. Dwight Bauman

Technology Director – Ms. Rebecca Cairns

EMA Director – Mr. Randy Miller

Veterans Service Officer – Mr. Ken Hylton

Animal Control – Mr. Perry Hardy

EMS Director – Mr. Scott Huffman

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

Health Department – Lexi Bushhorn, Dr. David Welsh, & Jason Smith

Dr. Welsh came in and gave an update on COVID19. Dr. Welsh stated that Ripley County is on Red level as of today January 11, 2021. Dr. Welsh and Miss. Bushhorn gave an update on the vaccines that are available too.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Tonya Stepleton - PN, Lynn Fledderman - Attorney, and Jason Smith - General Public as appointments to the Ripley County Health Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Coroner – Jason Bailey

Mr. Bailey came in to give an update on the Coroner's Office to the 2 new county commissioners. Mr. Bailey would like to still purchase the building in Osgood for a morgue and would like for the go ahead to start the purchase. The county commissioners told Mr. Bailey to get all the set information together and then bring it back.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Hankins brought up the discussion of a 2 district county in the highway garage instead of a 3 district county in the highway garage. Commissioner Hankins asked Mr. Toops if he could make it work with 2 District County in the highway garage. Ripley County Commissioners made the decision that the Ripley County Commissioner President would make the recommendation for the highway superintendent and the farthest southern commissioner, non-president, would make the highway foreman south recommendation and the farthest northern commissioner, non-president, would make the highway foreman north recommendation

2021 Commissioner Highway Appointments

-Highway Superintendent – Mr. Ray Toops

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to keep Mr. Ray Toops as the highway superintendent. , **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins Motion passed unanimously.

-Highway Foreman North – Mr. Meredith Huntington

Motion: Commissioner Horstman made the motion to make Meredith Huntington as the north foreman, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mark Horstman, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

-Highway Foreman South – Mr. Steve Sullivan

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to make Steve Sullivan as the south foreman, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Toops asked the commissioners about washing the county sheriff cars at the highway garage in one of the bays they have open. This is to get the deputy out of the weather, the commissioners are ok with the deputies washing in the garage bays.

County Attorney – John Ertel

Mr. Ertel brought in his contract for the county attorney position.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve John Ertel as the Ripley County Attorney for the year 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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



Mark Horstman, President



Chris Schmaltz



Kendall Hankins

Assts: 

Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor