

# Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

## January 24, 2022

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **Maintenance – Craig Herbert**

Mr. Herbert stated he is worried about snow removal. He has called numerous places and no one wants to do it. Commissioner Horstman told Mr. Herbert to contact the park and see if they can work something out. Commissioner Hankins asked if there was a time frame for Duke to come in with the new lights, but at this point there is no time frame.

### **EMS – Scott Huffman**

Mr. Huffman found 2 new ambulances one would be available in May and one in August. The ARP money can be used for the purchase of these 2 vehicles. Mr. Huffman stated one truck is an E450 Gas for \$180,400.00 and one truck is an E550 Gas for \$221,700.00. The total of both trucks would be \$402,100.00. Mr. Huffman will be trading in two 2012 vehicles. The Commissioners gave Mr. Huffman their blessing for the two new ambulances out of ARP money.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the purchase order with amendments for the new ambulances, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Highway – Ray Toops**

Mr. Toops stated that the grant has had a couple of issues. Mr. Toops stated that INDOTS computers went down. The total of asphalt road is 9.378 miles and the total of chip and sealing road is 74.55 miles. Mr. Toops stated he will be emailing the Commissioners a copy of the grant to look over.

Commissioner Schmaltz wanted to know if the 200 South project was complete and Mr. Toops told him no. Mr. Toops stated that they had one inquiry for the old Gradall and they offered \$18,000.00 but Mr. Toops thinks that is really low. Mr. Toops thinks the Gradall is worth \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00. Mr. Toops is going to relist the Gradall for \$35,000.00.

Mr. Toops stated they only other thing they need to talk about is the fuel cost. Mr. Moon from Laughery Valley Ag brought in the new prices as of today. In December, the prices for off road were \$2.51, on road was \$3.04 and gas was \$2.82. The prices today for off road is \$2.8973, on road is \$3.4273 and gas is \$3.0419. Mr. Toops thinks we need to wait until the end of February to make a decision. The Commissioners have agreed with Mr. Toops.

### **Treasurer – Lisa Vestal**

Mrs. Vestal brought in her Board of Finance Committee Meeting material. The Commissioners had no questions.

### **Canaan Utilities – Tad Brinson**

Mr. Brinson came back with the request for the Canaan Water Company. The requested amount is \$429,650.00. It will benefit a 100 or more new customers and 43 existing customers. Canaan now has 920 estimated customers now. Membership for new customers is \$1,200.00 and the tap fee of \$950.00.

Commissioner Horstman stated that he wants to treat the \$429,650.00 and the request from last commissioner meeting of \$122,450.00 as two different requests. The \$122,450.00 is for valves, stand by generator, and new fire hydrants. Commissioners have asked for further information.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to give Canaan Utilities Company \$122,450.00 for valves, stand by generator and fire hydrants. This motion is pending councils approve of an additional appropriation,

**Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

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### Johnson & Melloh – Rick Johnson

Mr. Johnson came in to talk to the Commissioners about the courthouse renovation.

Commissioner Horstman stated that the HVA system in the courthouse is what the priority is. Mr. Johnson stated that the RFQ needs to be done first. Commissioners want the bathrooms to be fixed in the courthouse, new HVA system, and windows.

The commissioners want John to look over the RFQ guidelines and Mr. Johnson will be back at the next commissioners meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the January 10, 2022 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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

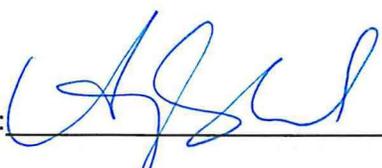
Commissioner Hankins talked about our health insurance. The Commissioners discussed their options on what they can do with the county health insurance. Apex is supposed to be at the next meeting on February 7, 2022.

**Motion:** Commissioner Kendall 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