

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

July 12, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert brought in some quotes for paper towel dispensers. The quotes are from Office Shop for \$160.00 and Uline for \$171.00. The Commissioners stated for him to go with Office Shop. Mr. Herbert also asked if it would be ok for him to help the housekeeper, Kim Johnson, in the courthouse, clean bugs out of the light fixtures. The Commissioners told him that was ok to do.

Mr. Herbert also stated that he has talked to Circuit Court about the leak from the condensation on the pipes, and they understood the issue.

Commissioner Hankins asked Mr. Herbert if he got all of his monitors taken to the recycling center.

Mr. Herbert also stated that he purchased a 12 foot ladder for the county. The one he had was not tall enough.

Assessor – Shawna Bushhorn

Ms. Bushhorn was in today with the contract from Luxor and Tyler for her assessing needs. Commissioner Hankins stated he made 15 phone calls and received 7 calls back with no bad response, no counties in Indiana. Commissioner Schmaltz also stated he made phone calls with the same response. Commissioner Horstman made the comment that it was a large amount of money to save, but he also stated that his opinion is to go with the elected official's opinion. Ms. Bushhorn stated that she is not looking at the money side, she is looking at that Luxor has not worked in Indiana. Commissioner Hankins stated he thinks we need to follow statute, the lowest and best bidder. Attorney Ertel stated the only thing wrong with taking a new bid is there are 2 existing bids for the project. Commissioner Horstman stated that the 3 Commissioners last year allowed Ms. Bushhorn to make the decision for her office. Ms. Bushhorn is stating she has concerns with them not working with her system, INCama.

Luxor stated all states are different and they have worked with all different computer systems within states.

Commissioner Horstman wants to know why they are more efficient. Luxor stated they use research on cost and time per day for their quote. Commissioner Hankins stated he is bound by the statute. Ms. Bushhorn stated the contract would take effect April 2022. Commissioner Horstman made the statement to Ms. Bushhorn if they go with Luxor, the Commissioners would like an update.

Attorney Ertel stated that the assessing company (between 2 bids), DLGF and Assessor's Office have to work together.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to accept Luxor's bid for Ripley County, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz, Commissioner Horstman abstained.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops is working with INDOT on the detour of 200 South. Mr. Toops has a quote from Dave O'Mara for the repair of 200 South in the amount of \$97,000.00, this is for .8 of a mile. INDOT and the Commissioners of Ripley County have to come to an agreement for the repair. Mr. Toops is also looking at putting a new culvert pipe in at Benham Road and 200 South. The estimate of this work is \$3,500.00. Mr. Jeff Rogers is fine with this improvement. Commissioners Hankins asked if this could be expedited due to school starting, not sure this can be done with 3 weeks before school. Mr. Toops stated there is also small damage on Benham Road and 300 South and Benham Road and 450 South.

Mr. Toops stated that our mowing tractor is still in the garage due to having to send the pistons off to be refurbished. The pistons are back but the injectors are being checked out now for pin holes. Mr. Toops stated that the injectors can probably be refurbished too. Mr. Toops stated that the cost of this tractor so far is \$4,500.00.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that the grant check should be sent on July 29, 2021 to help purchase the new mowing tractor.

Mr. Toops stated that the CCMG grant money should be in the Auditor's Office by August 6, 2021. Commissioner Hankins asked if the county was ready for Dave O'Mara to start on the Michigan Road project. Mr. Toops stated that we are ready. Commissioner Schmaltz asked if all the berms on the county road have been taken care of. Mr. Toops stated 300 North has some spots that still need fixed. Mr. Toops stated this is the only road left, he thinks.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about the milling on 129 for the counties use, but the county does not have anywhere to put it for storage.

Mr. Toops stated that the highway garage put in the culvert pipe on Kevin and Judy Schebler's driveway and it looked good when finished. Commissioner Horstman stated the Commissioners received an email praising the highway garage. Commissioner Schmaltz stated that the last culvert on Base Road, the gravel has washed off the road.

Commissioner Hankins asked if there was a chip and seal update. Mr. Toops stated that Foreman, Meredith Huntington, has about 3 or 4 more days left, and the south side of the county has not started. Mr. Toops stated that 5 ½ miles in the North of the county and 5 ½ in the South of the county will be turned back to blacktop instead of gravel.

Commissioner Horstman stated that there is a large pot hole on 900 North. It has been patched a couple of times but needs fixed again.

Taxpayer – John Bunselmeier

Mr. Bunselmeier is here today due to having a hard time with the Town of Osgood and his property on 386 E SR 350, Osgood, IN 47037. Mr. Bunselmeier stated the Town of Osgood never was contacted about the storm water project. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that now his property is flooded with water. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that he had to get a court order for them to respond. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that the county's bridge is now too small on Finks Road due to this project too. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that the DNR gave the permits to the Town of Osgood, but these properties are not in the Town of Osgood limits. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that the Common Wealth is the problem. Mr. Bunselmeier is requesting the county to get a court order to the Common Wealth for the bridge on Finks Road. Commissioner Schmaltz stated that USI is coming next week to look at the bridge on Finks Road. Commissioner Horstman made the comment we cannot do anything until we hear from USI. Commissioner Hankins asked for all the information that Mr. Bunselmeier had.

-4:57pm Attorney Ertel came in from court and the Bunselmeier matter came back up with the Commissioners. Attorney Ertel stated we need something that states that our bridge has been damaged. Attorney Ertel stated we need to wait till USI inspects our bridge before we do anything. Attorney Ertel stated he wants a very detailed inspection in a week or two to compare to last October.

Treasurer – Lisa Vestal

Ms. Vestal stated that she now uses invoice cloud. Ms. Vestal stated that the Commissioners just need to give her approval to sign a new contract. **Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz approved the new contract, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed unanimously.

Court Services – Shannon Schmaltz

Mr. Schmaltz stated that HB1068 now states that a Commissioner has to now sit on the Advisory Board. Commissioner Horstman stated that he will sit on the Advisory Board. Mr. Schmaltz asked if there is a fix for the condensation in his office as it drips on the carpet. Commissioner Horstman stated they do know that there is a problem with the heating and cooling in the courthouse and they are working on the situation. Mr. Schmaltz asked if the wet carpet causes any concerns to the Commissioners and they all said yes. Mr. Schmaltz stated that this is a very significant problem in his office for him.

Veteran Office – Ken Hylton

Mr. Hylton stated he is worried about the old Veteran's van being a liability and would like to put it on the auction site. Commissioner Horstman stated to get with Becky Cairns with putting it on the auction site. It is a 12 passenger van with 221,000 miles on it. Commissioner Hankins stated put it on the online auction with a starting bid of \$1,000.00.

Discussion:

Commissioner Horstman stated we needed to talk about the election room and the Coroner's office. Commissioner Schmaltz talked to Jim Ertel about the building in Osgood. Commissioner Horstman stated that he is ok with putting the Coroner in the Area and Planning Office, they have extra office space. Commissioner Horstman stated that Tad Brinson called about what was going on and he had no argument on the situation.

Motion: Commissioner made the motion to move the Coroner in the Area and Planning Office, they have extra office space. This needs to be completed by August 1, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horstman made the comment they will probably need shelving and Commissioner Hankins stated the Clerk should have funds available from the sale of voting equipment in 2020.

Commissioner Hankins brought up the compensation time. Commissioner Horstman stated let's just look at the foreman's positions at the highway garage. A decision will be tabled until after the budgets, due to the salary increase request.

Commissioner Hankins brought up that Gary Norman, from economic development, asked about the American Rescue Plan money. The Commissioners discussed what the money could be used for.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that he talked to Hoosier Hills about the money available that is a match for match with the American Rescue Plan money. Commissioner Horstman stated he has had calls about a sewer extension in Sunman.

Commissioner Hankins stated that we need get the county website updated. Commissioner Hankins stated the name of the person that does economic development website is Cristianne Fritsch, and he has emailed her about a possible quote.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that Alan Huffman told him that the dog warden was not doing enough for the county. Auditor Copeland gave the Commissioners their budgets and they signed the estimated budgets.

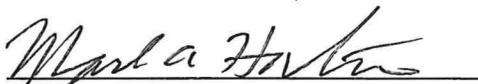
Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the claims and payroll, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to sign the Community Development Block Grant Program Agreement extension, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 28, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the Contract for Grant Administration Service with SIRPC for the COVID-19 Response Program Grant, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. 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