

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

July 26, 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 was in for Ms. Kim Johnson, housekeeper for the courthouse. Ms. Johnson is needing a cart to get supplies from the first floor to the second and third floor. Mr. Herbert received 2 quotes, one from Web supplies \$304.99 and one from Amazon \$89.99. The Commissioners told him to purchase it from Amazon.

Mr. Herbert also stated that Trane was in last week to fix the chiller in the annex building. Trane charges \$800 for 4 hours, but they were only here 2 hours. Mr. Herbert is hoping we will only get a bill for 2 hours.

Mr. Herbert stated that Michael Billing, with Performance Services, will be in on Wednesday to get more pictures of the courthouse.

Mr. Herbert also stated that new office keys are being made for the Clerk and Coroner.

Versailles Main Street - Roxanne Meyer

Ms. Meyer came in about the Versailles Community Night Out. This is on July 27, 2021 from 6-8pm on the courthouse square. Ms. Meyer is asking to use the bathrooms and the electrical outlets on the south side of the building. The Commissioners stated that the Versailles Main Street can use the bathrooms and outlets.

Health Department – Jason Smith & General Public – Kelly Vollet

Ms. Vollet was in to let the Commissioners know that she was interested in the Health Board position. Ms. Vollet stated that she has changed her political preference. Commissioner Horstman asked how Ms. Vollet felt about Government shutdown. Ms. Vollet stated it depended on the business and the requirements of the CDC. Commissioner Horstman asked Ms. Vollet if she turned in a letter of intent and she did. Attorney Ertel stated that the statue was pretty basic. Mr. Jason Smith stated he sent all the resumes to the Commissioners, but Ms. Donna Pitts is also interested in the position and was not able to send resume. The Commissioners stated that they are setting a precedence to make sure the right political position is picked. Mr. Smith was going to talk to the election room to find out the political position of each applicant.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Donna Pitts for the Ripley County Health Board opening, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman was in with the bid for the remodel of the Milan EMS building. The bid is from Poole Group for \$788,000.00. Mr. Jeff Poole was in to discuss the bid. This was the only bid that was turned in. Commissioner Horstman stated that Mr. Huffman is running the COVID testing site out of the Milan Firehouse but if his building was bigger then they could have it in the EMS building.

The Commissioners would really like to use ARP money, but more research is needed before the use of it. Auditor Copeland stated that she would email one of her contacts at Baker Tilly to ask for their opinion. Commissioner Horstman stated that the EMS was funded by casino money and we are no longer receiving casino money. The Commissioners also need to see what the Ripley County Council is going to do with the budget for EMS.

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

Mr. Huffman stated that he is meeting with a Dearborn County Council and Commissioner member about the EMS coverage in Dearborn County that Ripley County is covering.

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth stated that Mr. Paul Wells wants to come in and work but does not have direct deposit. The Commissioners stated that we will address that later if he is able to make it in. Mr. Wells is worried about the jail inspection. Mr. Cumberworth also hired a new deputy, Justin Batchelor.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops has an email from INDOT about County Road 200 South. INDOT will not pay for a complete overlay of 200 South, but they will pay for fixing the intersection at Jeff Rogers. They will pay for minor wedging and minor stone shoulders. Mr. Toops took pictures before and after the detour. Mr. Toops states there is damage on the roadway. Mr. Toops gave the Commissioners a copy of all the bridge inspections from 2022-2025. The Commissioner will do a scoring system on all companies that turn in bridge inspections, and then those scores are turned into INDOT.

Mr. Toops stated that the bridge on Finks Road was inspected by USI on July 15, 2021 and the inspection came out fine. Mr. Toops stated that the tractor is fixed but there is an electrical issue on the deck. It will be back on the road today or tomorrow. Mr. Toops stated the estimated cost to date has been \$6,800.00.

The north side of the counties chipping and sealing is done and they are working on the south side now. The north side got 20 miles of chip and sealing and 5.5 miles of new chip and sealing on gravel roads.

Commissioner Schmaltz wanted to make sure there are speed limit signs on Michigan Road. Mr. Toops stated there are signs on both ends of Michigan Road.

Commissioner Hankins asked about Allens Crossing, 200 North and Fairground Road. Mr. Toops has tried to contact CSX about the steepness of the railroads. Mr. Toops stated that he has gotten no answer from CSX. Commissioner Hankins wants to know how we fix the approach to Allens Crossing. Mr. Toops stated that he would do his best to get ahold of CSX to see if they can come up with a solution.

Auditor Copeland told the Commissioners and Mr. Toops that the \$883,387.50 will be put in the account tomorrow for the Community Crossing Grant.

Commissioner Hankins asked if the dirt mover is ready to go as soon as chip and sealing is done. Mr. Toops stated that it was ready.

General Public – John Bunselmeier

Mr. Bunselmeier heard the bridge inspection on Finks Road was completed by USI, and the inspection came back fine.

Mr. Bunselmeier stated, that is not the only issue. He stated that they have made it a floodplain now and it is not a floodplain. Mr. Bunselmeier said that Dave O'Mara stated that his bridge needs replaced. Mr. Bunselmeier states that the Common Wealth is to blame. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that they need to take care of the counties bridge and his bridge. Mr. Bunselmeier stated that he has attorneys and the Town of Osgood has turned it into their insurance company. Commissioner Horstman asked County Attorney Ertel what the county can do to help Mr. Bunselmeier. County Attorney Ertel stated we need to see the DNR paperwork of the plans to see if the county needs to write a letter to the Town of Versailles.

Versailles Lions Club – Paul Sipples

Mr. Sipples came in representing the Versailles Lions Club about using the square for the Versailles Pumpkin Show. They are asking for use of the courthouse for the Tri Kappa art show, the bathrooms of the courthouse, and the annex commissioners' room for the queen and king candidates on Wednesday night. Mr. Sipples stated his phone number is 812-699-2394 and to call if they have any questions. The Versailles Pumpkin Show will be September 22-26, 2021.

Commissioner Hankins asked about using the annex, it is a beautiful building. Commissioner Hankins stated the annex needs to be open for the handicapped. The Commissioners stated the annex will be open for the pumpkin show.

Health Insurance/Apex – Patti Boudrot

Ms. Boudrot brought in a claim analysis report for the June 2020 – May 2021 year. Ms. Boudrot asked Commissioner Horstman about the questions that he was getting before. Ms. Boudrot wants to make sure that the Commissioners know she is here once a month for 2 hours in the commissioners' room in the annex.

Coroner - Jason Smith

Mr. Smith stated that the Coroner’s Office has been moved to the Area and Planning office. Mr. Smith stated that they will have a storage problem at some point. Commissioner Horstman stated the Coroner told him that the people in Osgood wanted the county to make an offer on the medical building.

Technology – Becky Cairns

Ms. Cairns brought in quotes for a new phone system at the extension office.

Level 365 Internet base quote is \$750.00 set up, Integration Partners quote is \$13,321.28 for set up, and Midwest Data quote is \$9,246.86 for set up.

Commissioners are putting this on hold until they can get some better internet service.

Commissioner Horstman wanted to know how many web base programs there are. Commissioner Horstman wants everyone to use Team.

Commissioner Hankins also talked about a new web program for the county. Ms. Cairns stated that she has some quotes and will get another one and will bring them to the Commissioners.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve meeting minutes from July 12, 2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

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.

Attorney Ertel gave a follow up on the lipid litigation.

Commissioner Hankins stated that the council came up with a committee for the ARP money and how the money can be spent without having to pay any of it back.

Commissioner Horstman stated that every person that got a pay check last year was an essential worker.

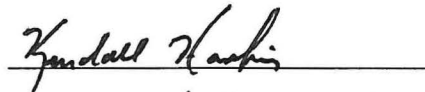
Commissioner Horstman stated that Gary Norman called him and wants the Commissioners to put so much of the ARP money to broadband and internet. The Ripley County Commissioners would like to target \$1,000,000.00 to underserved communities and homes for infrastructure. Commissioners Schmaltz stated the fire departments are going to be needing help also.


Council Decker asked the Commissioners what they thought about going into Dearborn County for EMS services. Mr. Huffman is going to meet with Dearborn County in a couple weeks.

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