

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

June 12, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mark Horstman, President was late but attended at 2:12pm, Chris Schmaltz, Kendall Hankins, Amy Copeland, Auditor, & John Ertel, County Attorney.

Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert brought in a quote for 3 hammer arresters for the annex building. The quote is for \$1,316.00.

Mr. Herbert is going to try and fix the leak at the 911 office.

Economic Development – Gary Norman & Deborah Tompkins

Motion: Commissioners Hankins made the motion to approve the \$62,000.00 for the Economic Development for the remainder of 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed 2 yes, 1 absent.

Ms. Reneisha Rudder came in to talk to the Commissioners about broadband in Ripley County.

Sheriff – Rob Bradley

Mr. Bradley stated that there was a death in the jail and the Indiana State Police are investigating.

Highway – Jason Edwards

Mr. Edwards brought in an evaluation paper for raises at the highway garage.

Mr. Edwards stated that the North chip and seal is done and going to start in the South on 6/13/2023. They will do 74 miles of chip and seal.

Probation – Shannon Schmaltz

Mr. Schmaltz came in with a handout for the opioid settlement. Mr. Schmaltz is wanting the remainder of the money left in the fund of \$46,393.90.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve Mr. Shannon Schmaltz the remainder of \$46,393.90 of the restricted opioid money in fund 1238, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmaltz came in for an employee's FMLA and long-term disability until June 1, 2023. Mr. Schmaltz is asking for an extension until June 26, 2023.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman brought in the contract for the EMS to work the NMLRA in Friendship.

Mr. Huffman stated that the Baby Box Safe Haven dedication will be on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 1:00pm in Versailles and 3:00pm in Milan.

Mr. Huffman asked about the contractual fees for Sunman and Batesville EMS. The Commissioners stated for him to keep them the same.

911 – Leah Hildebrand

Ms. Hildebrand was in with her compensation time off going over. Commissioner Hankins stated that Ms. Hildebrand can go to 200 hours, but not to exceed 200 hours.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to cap Ms. Hildebrand at 200 compensation hours,
Action: Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

*The Commissioners had a discussion on the solar panel ordinance. There was one person in the general public that spoke on the ordinance. Commissioner Hankins stated that his is in favor of giving Area and Planning until October 16, 2023. Commissioner Hankins also stated that he would like to see the ordinance and what is on the ordinance at every meeting before that October 16, 2023 date.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to extend the moratorium until October 16, 2023,
Action: Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hankins also wants every meeting advertised so all 3 Commissioners can be at the meetings.

Randy Frye

Mr. Frye was in to talk about the 2023 legislation. Mr. Frye stated that volunteer fire departments are deteriorating and having a hard time with funding. The House bill 1454 would help fund the volunteer fire departments. This funding could also help make part of the fire departments have full time employees. The income tax increase could be .001% to .5%. This would be a Ripley County Council decision.

Commissioner Horstman asked if the Ripley County Council could ask for the budget of the fire departments and the answer was, they can ask for anything they want.

Senate Bill 4 was for the Health Department and the Commissioners stated that they already passed it.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the May 26, 2023 meeting minutes,
Action: Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

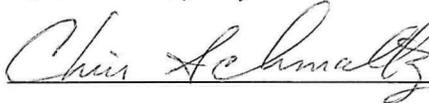
Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes,
Action: Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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

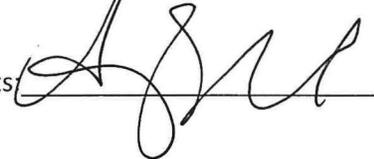
Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to take \$25,000.00 of the opioid money nonrestricted to be divided between the 10 volunteer fire departments and for a receipt to be given for the expenditure, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed 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