

# Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

## June 14, 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 called about the electronic drop at the Osgood Recycle Center. He stated that they said we can drop 2 items per household (2 for the county also). Mr. Herbert stated we have numerous electronics to drop off. Mr. Herbert also mentioned that he talked to a Sheila. Mr. Herbert estimated to get rid of all the monitors, it would be approximately \$225.00.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated to take the electronics and we will pay for the drop off this time. Commissioner Horstman stated that he would talk to the board about the county getting a deal for the drop offs. All 3 Commissioners agreed to Mr. Herbert taking the electronics.

Mr. Herbert also stated that the fan coil unit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Clerk's office is not working. The cost to replace the unit is \$3,780.00. The Commissioners stated to replace the unit.

Mr. Herbert also stated that the sump pump in the annex was going out and needs to be replaced. The new pump is \$930.00 to replace. The Commissioners stated to replace it.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked if the generator was serviced at the EMS in Milan and Mr. Herbert stated that GenSet did service it.

Mr. Herbert stated the he has a bid for general parts that need to be replaced in the amount of \$484.27. Mr. Herbert stated that he normally goes through Halcombs but going through Granger was less expensive.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about the bathrooms being cleaned during the farmers market by Kim Johnson (housekeeping for courthouse) and getting comp time to come in on Sunday to clean them. The Commissioners stated that they are ok with Kim doing this. The Commissioners asked Mr. Herbert to see if Joe Mann can have a couple of people that are on probation clean the bathrooms.

### Highway – Ray Toops

Commissioner Horstman received an email from Kevin & Judy Schebler about their driveway being washed out from the ditch water. Mr. & Mrs. Schebler are going to be at the next Commissioner's meeting on June 28, 2021. Mr. Toops stated the Scheblers did not want to put a bigger culvert in the driveway. Commissioner Horstman stated how much is our responsibility, really. Attorney Ertel thinks that zero percent is our responsibility.

Commissioner Horstman stated that we need to table the discussion until the next meeting when Mr. & Mrs. Schebler can come to the meeting.

Mr. Toops stated that the garage started chip and sealing today, June 14, 2021.

Mr. Toops also stated that they have been working on the budget for the highway garage.

When he completes it, he will get with the Commissioners for them to review it. Mr. Toops stated that he thinks with the MVH money coming in, that they may be able to purchase a new gradall next year.

Mr. Toops stated they just received an email about the American Rescue Plan money. The paper that Mr. Toops brought in stated that they can replace the money they lost in 2020. Mr. Toops stated that the estimated revenue loss was \$176,000.00. Commissioner Hankins stated that he came up with a loss of revenue of \$77,059.54.

Commissioner Hankins asked if the tractor that was broke down was fixed. The estimate to fix it was about \$6,000.00. Mr. Toops is hoping the tractor is fixed by the end of the week. The mowing will be done as soon as possible, but they are behind due to being a tractor short. Commissioner Schmaltz asked if we do not get the grant for the new tractor, could we lease a tractor.

Mr. Toops stated the highway department went through and interviewed two people for a truck driver position. Mr. Toops is wanting to hire Ethan Scudder from Versailles. Mr. Toops is wanting the Commissioners' approval on hiring him. The Commissioners gave the approval to hire Ethan Scudder for the truck driver position.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about the water that backs up in Elrod on US 50 and 400 East. Mr. Toops stated that he has called the state numerous times. This is a state problem not a county problem.

Mr. Toops stated that he has talked to the project manager for the 421 project and they are scheduled to open late July.

Commissioner Hankins brought up the railroad crossing at Allen's Crossing and wants it put on the radar to be looked at and fixed.

#### **Johnson Melloh Solutions – Rick Anderson**

Mr. Anderson with Johnson Melloh Solutions was in to talk to the Commissioners about energy solutions. Mr. Anderson said they have done projects in Jefferson and Jennings counties. Mr. Anderson stated that he would need a utility release form. The preliminary analysis is at no cost to the county. Commissioner Hankins said that he is good with the review of the utility bills for an estimate cost savings.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to let Mr. Rick Anderson from Johnson Melloh Solutions review and give an analysis of our utility bills, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Horstman asked that the county attorney look into our Area and Planning zoning codes for windmills and solar panels.

#### **Health Department – Jason Smith**

Mr. Smith was in about the vacancy of the Public Health Nurse. Mr. Smith was in for approval to payout Ms. Franklin from the COVID/Vaccine Grant. The Commissioners are giving their blessing for the Health Department to hire a new nurse.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to make an exception to the handbook that the Health Department can advertise in house and out of house at the same time due to a pandemic, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **EMS – Randy Miller**

Mr. Miller came in to bring everyone up to speed on the incident command vehicle. Mr. Miller stated that he has an appointment with Lee's RV to look at the vehicle and give us an appraisal. Mr. Miller will get more information when he talks to Lee's RV. Mr. Miller also stated that they have been working with the Health Department camper. Mr. Miller is wanting the money to be put back into the camper

that the Health Department has, and that they are all going to use (EMA, Health Department, 911, EMS etc.). Commissioner Schmaltz stated that he needed to talk to Kenny Bowling about maybe pouring a concrete pad for the camper or making a rock pad to set it on.

Mr. Miller was also in to talk about the WRBI generator. The generator was installed in March of 2020. The county maintains the road to the WRBI tower and the generator. WRBI is stating that there are issues with the generator. WRBI owns the tower and the land is owned by an individual. Mr. Miller is stating that all the inspections were passed when the generator was installed.

#### **Airwave Networks - Trent Linville**

Mr. Linville was in to talk about high-speed internet to rural areas. Mr. Linville is working with about 80 customers. The speed of the internet he offers is good for streaming and video gaming. Mr. Linville wanted to come in to introduce himself to the County Commissioners. Commissioner Horstman stated that there are a lot of state and federal grants out there and the Commissioners would stand behind him with anything that he needed. Mr. Linville stated that he has about 76 people so far on the service.

#### **EMS – Scott Huffman**

Mr. Huffman was in to talk about the bid for the Milan building as it will be advertised twice in this week's paper, and then twice in next week's paper. The bids have to be in by July 22, 2021. The Commissioners asked Mr. Huffman to get a cost analysis to run the COVID testing site, due to maybe being able to use ARP money for the new Milan reconstruction.

Mr. Huffman also stated that they are taking more calls in the Dearborn County area. Mr. Huffman was going to try and get ahold of someone at Dearborn County to talk too.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to adopt the ordinance to raise the sales disclosure fee to \$20.00, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the easement to the Town of Versailles, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to opt out of the opioid litigation settlement with resolution number 2021-03, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion**

Commissioner Horstman stated that Randy Frye contacted him about the State Road 101 project. The Commissioners talked about what way the road would go.

Commissioner Schmaltz brought up the discussion on the building in Osgood for the coroner. Mr. Jim Ertel came to Commissioner Schmaltz about buying the building and they are ready to sell the building as soon as possible. The building does have to be sold to service a medical need. Commissioner Hankins asked that Ginger Bradford be notified to come to the next Commissioner meeting on June 28, 2021 to discuss the storage issue.

Auditor Copeland brought up making direct deposit mandatory for Ripley County employees. **Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to go to direct deposit only by July 12, 2021 for all Ripley County employees, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

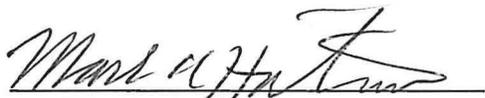
Commissioner Horstman wants to put the election room materials in the upstairs breakroom. Commissioner Hankins is not comfortable yet with displacing those who use the upstairs breakroom. Commissioner Hankins thinks the problem was resolved when the election room was built. Commissioner Hankins stated that the office that Ginger Bradford is using is the room that was built for locked storage.

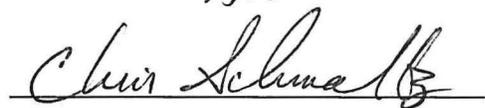
**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2021 meeting, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

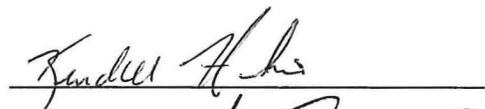
**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve payroll and claims, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

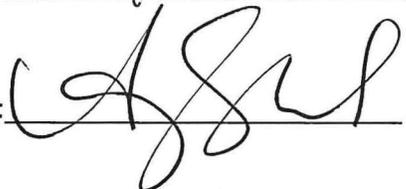
Commissioner Hankins talked about instead of giving employees a 3% raise to do a flat increase based on salary. It was discussed by all the Commissioners and will be brought up to Council.

**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