

# Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

## March 21, 2022

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Roll Call

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

### Maintenance – Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert came in to let the commissioners know that it would take a yard and a half of concrete to put where the tree is being taken out.

Commissioner Horstman wants to put decorative stone around the annex instead of mulch. The Commissioners do have concerns with the rocks.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about the water softener at the jail and Mr. Herbert had not been to the jail yet this morning. Mr. Herbert has been on vacation.

### Clerk – Diana Macek

Ms. Macek was in to talk to the Commissioners about the absentee voting. The State of Indiana is telling the election office that they have to have their own drop box for ballots. Commissioner Hankins stated that a notation on the current drop box is going to be done as soon as possible. Mr. Herbert stated the cost of a standard drop box is \$300 to \$400 dollars. The Attorney stated that we do not have to have a drop box but do have to have the language on all other boxes of “Do not deposit a voted absentee ballot in the drop box or container”.

\*Attorney Ertel brought in the resolution to opt back in to the opioid litigation.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the resolution to opting back in to the states action lawsuit of the opioid litigation settlement, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to execute the Settlement Participation Form, Notice of Election to opt back in to Opioids Settlement Under Indiana Code 4-6-15-2, Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services Relating to Opioids Settlements with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., Amerisource Bergen Corporation and the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

\*The Commissioners had a discussion regarding the health insurance. The Commissioners asked the Auditor to send Patti Perry from Apex an email to be at the next meeting.

### Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops stated they interviewed 3 candidates for a truck driver position. Mr. Toops recommendation is Philip Dabbs. The Commissioners told Mr. Toops that if that was his recommendation then to hire him.

Mr. Toops stated, they will start on the crossings today March 21, 2022. This is for the railroad grant that was rewarded last fall. This is a reimbursable grant.

Mr. Toops stated the highway garage is going to start working on cracked roads.

Mr. Toops stated that the Gradall has been dropped down to \$30,000.00. Mr. Toops stated he does have a gentleman from Ohio that is interested but does not want to give \$30,000.00 for it. The Commissioners asked Mr. Toops to negotiate with the gentleman from Ohio.

Commissioners Schmaltz asked about the repairs on the truck. Mr. Toops stated they would not have it back for at least a couple months.

Mr. Toops stated that E3 Bridge is coming to look at a bridge on 300 South to see if they have to fix the bridge or if they can replace it with a culvert.

The end of March is when they usually find out about the Community Crossings Matching Grant.

#### **Public – Jeff Becker**

Mr. Becker was in about the drainage on his property at 8495 E CR 900 N, Sunman, IN 47041. Mr. Becker brought in a video of the problem. The Commissioners did tell Mr. Becker that they would send out the county foreman to look at it, but the Commissioners and Attorney told him it's a natural flow of water and they cannot change that.

#### **Safe Passage – Jane Yorn**

Ms. Yorn from Safe Passage was in requesting funding from the ARP funds. The requested amount is \$602,323.00. The Commissioners have told Ms. Yorn they cannot commit until we receive the second distribution.

#### **Public – Bob Steele**

Mr. Steele is in to see the Commissioners about building 100 embankments up Laughery Creek. This cost would be \$100,000,000.00. This would be a 100 year investment. The Commissioners can take this under advisement.

#### **Court Services – Shannon Schmaltz**

Mr. Schmaltz brought in a Ripley County Court Services 2021 Community Service Referrals.

The Commissioners gave permission for Mr. Schmaltz to spend up to \$250.00 for repairs. This would be paid out of EDIT Building Repairs.

Mr. Schmaltz asked the Commissioners to let him know about the mulch around the annex and courthouse.

Mr. Schmaltz asked the Commissioners about the sound system in the courthouse. The Commissioners told Mr. Schmaltz to ask Becky first and then he could remove it.

Mr. Schmaltz told the Commissioners that Mr. Joe Mann would be an option to mow the lawns for the county.

#### **EMS – Scott Huffman**

Mr. Huffman was in about an employee on workers compensation. The employee is on a restriction. Mr. Huffman wants to know if it is ok for him to work with restrictions. The Attorney's recommendation is for Mr. Dean to do the full workers compensation time off and not work with restrictions.

Mr. Huffman stated they have started on the Milan EMS project.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the March 7, 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.

**Motion:** Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the Indianapolis Zoo discounted online ticket program for no cost to the county, **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