

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

March 07, 2022

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Maintenance – Craig Herbert & Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Herbert and Sheriff Cumberworth came in to tell the Commissioners that the water softener at the jail is out. The replacement cost of this is \$4,400.00. The Commissioners stated to pay this out of Cum Cap Development.

Commissioner Horstman brought up the jail needing a maintenance position filled. The Commissioners talked about hiring a seasonal part time employee.

Mr. Herbert stated a small circulating pump went out at the courthouse. The price of the replacement is \$1,784.00. The Commissioners asked if Mr. Herbert could put the new pump on and he stated yes. The Commissioners asked Mr. Herbert to order the pump and for him to replace it.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made to the motion to purchase a new water softener for the jail at the cost of \$4,400.00 and for Mr. Herbert to purchase a new circulating pump for the courthouse and for him to put it in, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Herbert brought in the cost to fertilize the annex and courthouse lawn from Patterson Nursery. The Commissioners stated they would pass on having the lawns fertilized this year.

Highway – Ray Toops

Commissioner Horstman made the comment that US 421 will be closed from Osgood to Napoleon starting on April 1, 2022.

Mr. Toops asked the Commissioners if they reviewed the USI 4 year contract.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the USI 4 year contract for the price of \$258,307.00,

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Toops told the Commissioners they finished the project on Benham Road and 200 South.

Mr. Toops stated that he got an email from SBOA about the MVH funds and dropping it to 40% instead of 50%.

The dump truck that was in the accident is at Kenworth and the adjusters have approved the estimate. The estimate was \$46,300.00.

Mr. Toops stated that they have advertised the open truck driver position at the highway.

Mr. Toops stated that there was a little damage from the storms last night.

Commissioner Horstman asked Ray about spreading cinders on the road and them not being spread evenly. Mr.

Toops stated that the garage does need to update some spreaders on the trucks.

Napa is going to be coming up to the garage to help get the inventory in line and worked out.

Commissioner Hankins stated that the fuel log looks good from the garage. Commissioner Hankins also asked for a plan for the garage.

Mr. Toops stated that they should know about the grant by the end of the month. The Commissioners want to make sure the garage has a plan if the grant does not come through.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked Mr. Toops to make sure he takes a drive on Michigan Road before they close US 421.

Health Department – Lexi Bushhorn

Ms. Bushhorn came in with a new ordinance for sewage disposal. Commissioner Horstman stated that you are not always forced to get onto a sewerage system.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the new Sewage Disposal Ordinance., **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Holton Water Company – Michelle Demaree & Carolyn Keyes

They would like to drop the extension proposal.

The Holton Water Company has to have 11 valves replaced with an estimated cost of \$43,700.00.

The Holton Water Company has a line that crosses the creek and it needs to be fixed, this approximately affects 16 homes. Mike Holman Excavating is estimating the cost of \$50,000.00.

This project has been approved by the Commissioners but will have to go to the Council.

Taxpayer – Bob Steele

Mr. Steele was in to tell the Commissioners they can fix the flooding in Friendship by building a damn on 450 South. Mr. Steele states he needs \$20,000,000.00 to fix it and make him the road engineer. Commissioner Horstman stated that the army core of engineers would need to come talk to them about the flooding in Friendship.

Commissioner Horstman brought up the overtime situation. The Commissioners and Attorney Ertel stated that one employee cannot work more than 40 hours a week for 2 different departments and not receive overtime.

Motion: Commissioner Horstman made the motion to appoint Emily Schmaltz as the Alcohol Beverage Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mark Horstman, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked Attorney Ertel about the weed board. Attorney Ertel stated he hasn't had time to work on this yet.

Commissioner Hankins brought up the ARP money and how things are being handled. Commissioner Hankins stated that there is a committee set up for the ARP money and it consist of Katie Bailey, Council, Peggy Ehlers, Council, Kendall Hankins, Commissioner, John Ertel, Attorney and Amy Copeland, Auditor. The County Auditor will email any information that is received from an entity to the County Council.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins appointed Chris Schmaltz to the SEI Regional Planning Board, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Mark Horstman. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to appoint Tina Wallace to the Osgood Public Library Board of Trustees., **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve option 3 of the Covid Plan Resolution for the Ripley County Medical Plan, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the February 18, 2022 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 Schmaltz made the motion to adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.


Mark Horstman, President


Chris Schmaltz


Kendall Hankins

Assts: 
Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor