

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

May 02, 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 brought in a quote from Central Indiana Hardware for the west side of the courthouse for \$800.00. This should cover the cost of troubleshooting and repairs. This will be paid out of Cum Cap.

Mr. Herbert brought in a quote for mowing from Tommy Tunny for \$142.50 per mowing yearly estimate of \$4,275.00 and Chandler for \$125.00 per mowing yearly estimate of \$3,750.00. Mr. Herbert stated that both of these companies are insured.

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

Mr. Herbert stated to put weed killer on the courthouse and annex yards it would cost \$127.92. The Commissioners told Mr. Herbert to go ahead and put the weed killer on the yards.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about trimming the bushes out front, but he stated that Court Services is responsible for that.

Ray Toops - Highway

Mr. Toops stated that we were awarded Community Crossing Matching Grant for \$493,592.98.

The roads that are going to be paved are as follows:

700 South from State Road 421 to Benham Road

1050 South from State Road 421 to 450 West

1250 North from State Road 101 to Spades Road

1425 North from 1000 East to Rosfeld Road

900 West from Brownstown Road to County Line Road

This is 8.8 miles of paved road.

Commissioner Horstman asked Mr. Toops about applying for another Community Crossing Matching Grant in June. Mr. Toops stated that it can be applied for.

Commissioner Horstman stated that he has heard from Mr. Duane Swingle about his road being gravel. The Commissioners, Mr. Toops and Attorney Ertel talked about closing the road. Commissioner Horstman made the comment that the road floods once or twice a year.

Attorney Ertel stated he would have to research the closing of the road. Attorney Ertel stated that the land owners would have to do a petition to close the road.

The Commissioners talked about chip and sealing the gravel roads. They are wanting to do 10 miles in North and 10 miles in the South.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the resolution of the commissioners of Ripley County of Indiana concerning authorization for execution of INDOT agreements. The Resolution number is 2022-02, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Toops stated the town has some signs to put up for the bicycle trails. The County is going to put the signs up for the town.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked about all the new traffic on Michigan Road. Mr. Toops stated there have been a couple of wrecks on it since it's been a detour.

Mr. Toops stated that a gentleman came to look at the gradall we have for sale and offered \$19,000.00, but Mr. Toops states we need to get about \$25,000.00. Mr. Toops stated to drop the gradall price online to \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Hankins states one driver is retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Toops stated that they would start the hiring process.

Holly Wehr – Main Street Versailles

Ms. Wehr asked if they could put a bike rack on Tyson Street in the Courthouse lawn. The commissioners stated it would be fine to do this. The Commissioners stated they would like concrete under the bike rack.

Ms. Wehr stated the farmers market opens back up June 4, 2022.

Ms. Wehr also wanted to put number stencils on the curb.

Bob Steele – General Public

Mr. Steele was in about the proving ground in Ripley County. He wants the county to buy the proving ground and hire him.

Scott Huffman – EMS

Mr. Huffman stated the footers and the walls are poured. It is looking good at this point.

Mr. Huffman stated he got a call from the truck manufacturer and will be signing off on one next week. The next one will be in August. Mr. Huffman stated that both trucks are gas.

Mr. Huffman stated he has one employee on workers compensation. Mr. Huffman wanted to know if he could hire

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the April 18, 2022 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to reappoint Marla Simon to the Osgood Public Library, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to appoint Polly Hardy for the dog warden position in Ripley County, **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.

Cari Kettman - Safe Passage

Ms. Kettman was in to go over the building upgrades for safe passage. Ms. Kettman brought in an updated amount of money they are asking for through ARP is \$324,000.00. The Commissioners have decided at this date, to table the subject to get more research on the subject.


Angela Farrell – Town of Holton


Ms. Farrell, Clerk Treasurer for the Town of Holton, was in for broadband funding. Trent Linville is helping the Town of Holton get broadband in the Town of Holton. The Town of Holton is asking for \$950,000.00 in ARP grant money. The Commissioners have decided to say no to the project due to REMC/SEI Data was half the cost. Commissioner Horstman also stated to get some more information and bring back if the cost is lower.

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