

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

October 17, 2022

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mark Horstman, President, Chris Schmaltz, Kendall Hankins, Danielle McGee, First Deputy & John Ertel, County Attorney.

Maintenance - Craig Herbert

Mr. Herbert stated he was waiting on the parts from Willoughby for the jail. He is also waiting on the quotes for the generator for the Annex. Commissioner Horstman stated that we need to build a job description for the new Maintenance Supervisor position. Commissioner Hankins mentioned replacing the mulch with stone and try to get it done in the 2022 budget year. Commissioner Horstman mentioned getting a quote from New Trenton and Metamora. Mr. Herbert stated that he will call both places.

Owen Menchhofer – Wreaths Across Ripley County

Mr. Menchhofer was in wanting approval from the Commissioners to use the courthouse square for the “Wreath Day Ceremony” that will take place on December 17, 2022. This is to honor our fallen veterans. Mr. Menchhofer mentioned the wreaths will stay on display until March 2023. The Commissioners approved them to use the courthouse square for the ceremony and to leave the wreaths there until March 2023.

Tad Brinson – Area Planning

Mr. Brinson was in to discuss a code amendment. Currently the Soil & Water Board must sign off on subdivision lots with a width/depth ratio of 3 to 1. Mr. Brinson mentioned we should match the state’s width/depth ratio of 4 to 1, then the board would not have to sign off on it. **Motion:** Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the code amendment to change the width/depth ratio to 4 to 1. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Beth Boone & Randy Frye – Children’s Advocacy Center

Ms. Boone and Randy Frye were in on behalf of the Childs Advocacy Center requesting additional funding. Ms. Boone mentioned the Voca grant was cut by 25% and this puts them in a \$400,000 deficit. The commissioners are requesting an additional appropriation of \$25,000 out of the Riverboat money.

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

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops was in requesting to hire Al Asche as a truck driver, starting on October 24, 2022. The commissioners have approved for Mr. Toops to hire Al Asche. Mr. Toops mentioned they will resume patching the week of October 24th, weather permitting. Mr. Toops gave an update on the road construction on Highway 421 in Napoleon as they are laying/milling the blacktop and he was told it should be complete the week of October 17th with anticipated reopen date the week of October 24th. Mr. Toops mentioned backfilling his position. Mr. Toops recommends Meredith Huntington for the position. He would like to start training him for the job. Commissioner Hankins wants the job posted. Mr. Toops mentioned that Kim Brinson will be retiring with a last day worked on October 19th, but he has time to use up until January 2023. Mr. Toops mentioned that the grader is still at John Deere as they still have not received the pump. John Deere said they do not know when they are supposed to receive it and may need to be rebuilt. Commissioner Schmaltz wanted an update on CR 100 W. Meredith Huntington said they can go ahead and put a culvert in. Mr. Toops

mentioned the total cost to fix it would be between \$300 and \$400. Commissioner Hankins brought up the west side of the Bushing Bridge as it looks like it is washing away. Mr. Toops said they will look at it. Ron Decker asked who is going to fix Michigan Road due to that being used as a detour. Mr. Toops stated the county will take pictures of the areas they have to fix and send them to the state to get reimbursed. Mr. Toops stated that CR 850 N and 500 W are in bad shape. Commissioner Hankins brought up the wingwall/culvert on Benham Road and 200 S. Mr. Toops stated they will fix it.

Mary McCarty – Holton Water Company

Mrs. McCarty was in to hold a public meeting for the Holton Water Company. Mrs. McCarty mentioned they have applied for a \$700,000 grant and would need to borrow \$3.3M to fix the water lines as well as adding a new storage tank.

LaDonna Booher - Plymate

Ms. Booher was in and brought a quote for uniforms for the highway employees as well as a quote for first aid boxes. The commissioners are going to take the uniform quote under advisement.

Holly Wehr – Main Street Versailles

Ms. Wehr was in asking the commissioners to purchase Christmas lights to be used to decorate the landscape and trees at the Annex building as well as the courthouse. Ms. Wehr mentioned there was not going to be a Christmas tree decorating contest on the square as many businesses are under renovation. The commissioners are okay with Ms. Wehr spending \$250 to purchase the lights but she will need to find volunteers to put them up as well as take them down. Ms. Wehr also mentioned that Holiday on the Square will take place on December 3rd. Ms. Wehr brought up an issue with parking on Tyson Street as well as on the square. The town has received complaints from the local businesses that there is no parking for their customers. Ms. Wehr recommended that the town draft a letter to be sent to the county employees asking them not to park in front of the businesses. Commissioner Horstman requested that the letter be sent to the commissioners for approval before it is sent to the county employees.

911 – Leah Hildebrand and Lee Kissel

Ms. Hildebrand came in and mentioned she had asked the Milan Legion back in August if they had any chairs. She just heard back from Milan Legion and they are giving her \$7,000 to use to purchase chairs.

Mr. Kissel mentioned they only received two bids for the fencing for the tower project. Mr. Kissel recommends the low bid from Mission 1. Mr. Kissel stated the Mission 1 bid was \$46,319 lower than what they thought it would be. He does not recommend the bid from Allstate. Mr. Kissel mentioned that the project could potentially be completed in May 2023. Ms. Hildebrand will get the contract from Mission 1 and Worldwide to send to Attorney John Ertel to review. Ms. Hildebrand brought up the radio contract. She stated the equipment is on back order and wants to get a contract locked in before the prices go up. Commissioner Horstman told her to go ahead and get the contract locked in.

Scott Huffman - EMS

Mr. Huffman state the baby box in the Milan location is 3 weeks from completion. Commissioner Schmaltz wants Mr. Huffman to get bids to clean up the new property in Milan.

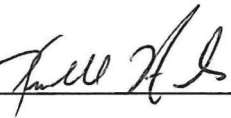
Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the October 3, 2022 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

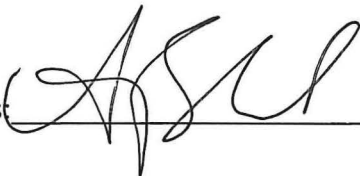
Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the payroll, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

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