

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

October 18, 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 brought in a quote for a chiller in the annex for \$3,200.00.

Central Indiana is going to be in today, October 18, 2021, to change all the locks in the Courthouse.

Mr. Herbert is unaware when The Poole Group will be in to look at the floor on the second floor of the Courthouse.

Commissioner Horstman stated that he would like to start the transition to put rock in the areas where the mulch is around the annex and courthouse.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Horstman stated that he spoke to Dearborn County Commissioners about the runs that Ripley County EMS has had to take. Ripley County EMS is no longer going to be taking runs in Dearborn County. Mr. Huffman stated that the department head in dispatch of Dearborn County would like to have a letter stating that Ripley County would only be doing true mutual aid. Attorney Ertel states that we do not need to send them anything. It is Dearborn County's responsibility to run Dearborn County.

Commissioners and Mr. Huffman discussed the additional appropriation of ARP money for the EMS building. It was discussed, if the additional appropriation is done, putting the EMS in the Osgood house until the Milan renovations are done.

*The Commissioners had a discussion on the new open space in the Ripley County Economic Development building. The Commissioners also discussed the Sunman area for an extended sewer expansion by I74. Attorney Ertel stated that the Ripley County Health Department emailed him about giving copies of death certificates. Attorney Ertel stated the Health Department can give copies of the death certificates with a retracted social security number.

Sheriff – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth brought in a bid for the cleaning of the annex windows. The bid is for every outside window in the annex is \$969.00 and to add the inside windows by the front doors it is \$1,385.00.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to get the windows cleaned in the annex building, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cumberworth stated that Paul Wells, who was the maintenance employee at the jail, passed. Mr.

Cumberworth stated that the maintenance job at the jail could be a full time position.

Mr. Cumberworth stated that he is having a really hard time keeping jailers in the jail. Mr. Cumberworth is asking the Commissioners their opinion on the pay for the jailers. The Commissioners told Mr. Cumberworth they are for whatever he needs to do to raise their pay.

Highway – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops stated that Dave O'Mara will have the Michigan Road project done in an estimated 7 days. Mr. Toops stated that on Thursday they received an email stating they received a grant in the amount of \$9,849.00 for the 19 railroad crossings for 2022. This is to paint the crossings and to fix any signs at the crossings. Mr. Toops stated that bridge 133 on Brownstown Road west of county road 900 W has a wing wall that has collapsed. The road has been closed since the 1980's. If the bridge is taken down, all of the material has to be discarded of. Mr. Toops asked the Commissioners opinion on what they thought. Mr. Toops is going to get some more information for the Commissioners to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Toops stated they got the culvert done at Benham Road and 200 South. Mr. Toops stated that we got awarded up to \$43,204.30 for 200 South. The county does have to turn in invoices for the reimbursement.

Economic Development & Sunman Town Clerk – Gary Norman & Cheryl Taylor

Mr. Norman brought in some information on the READI Grant. Every county has done their part to contribute. The money will be going to the SIRPC. The money will be coming from ARP but will have to get council's approval first. This is for a consultant for the grant. Commissioners asked the County Auditor to get some more information from the other County Auditors where they paid the bill out of for the READI grant. Mr. Norman and Ms. Taylor came in with the sewer extension project for the Town of Sunman. They are wanting the Commissioner to put in consideration of a match in the future. Commissioner Horstman stated that he did not want anyone to be forced to be on the sewer system.

*The County Auditor brought up the policy in the handbook for sick time. The policy states that if you use more than 3 days in a row of sick leave they need a doctor's excuse. The county has an employee that does not want to go to the doctor but wants to take her sick leave.

*The County Auditor brought to their attention about an employee wanting to use FMLA and Leave of Absence for COVID. The county Auditor was told to get all the payroll records for the employee.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the October 4, 2021 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 recess until after the Council meeting at 6pm on October 18, 2021, **Action:** Enter Recess, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

7:00pm

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

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to sign The Poole Group, Inc contract for the RCEMS Milan Renovation for \$788,000.00, **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 Mark Horstman, President

Chris Schmaltz Chris Schmaltz

Kendall Hankins Kendall Hankins

Assts Amy R Copeland Amy R Copeland-Ripley County Auditor