

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

September 20, 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 from GenSet Services, LLC for a one-year contract in the amount of \$1,240.00.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve GenSet quote for a one-year contract on the generators at annex, Versailles EMS, Milan EMS, and WRBI tower in the amount of \$1,240.00., Action: Approve, Moved by Kendall Hankins, Seconded by Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

EMA – Randy Miller

Mr. Miller stated that he is having one last meeting about the Pumpkin Show and Lions Club.

Mr. Miller also brought in a Memorandum of Understanding between Ripley County and the City of Batesville.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding contingent on Attorney John Ertel looking at it and the City of Batesville looking at it, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Miller stated the EMA has updated the Employee Emergency Handbook. Mr. Miller stated they are going to have an hour training on the handbook.

Area Planning – Dave Osborne/Vice President of Board

Mr. Osborne brought in a rezone from the Area Planning. Commissioner Horstman asked for any public comment regarding the rezone.

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

Commissioner Schmaltz asked Mr. Osborne about putting together a Weed Board. Attorney Ertel is going to work on the paperwork of setting up the Weed Board.

Great Plains Communications (Formerly ETC) – Doug Foster

Mr. Foster talked about the internet speeds. Mr. Foster also talked about putting access to the internet around the courthouse and annex buildings.

Sheriff Department – Jeff Cumberworth

Mr. Cumberworth stated that he has 3 inmates in the jail with COVID. He asked the Commissioners about protocol of COVID time off.

Mr. Cumberworth stated that Ruth Ann and the Sheriff are having problems with bugs on the outside of their windows. He is looking into getting the windows cleaned.

Mr. Cumberworth also brought in a new part-time employee for courthouse security.

Highway Department – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops talked about the rating sheets for the bridge inspections. He stated they need to be completed by October.

Mr. Toops also talked about the new tractor and it is running good.

Mr. Toops stated all employees are back to work today.

Mr. Toops stated that he has a transfer for tonight's council meeting for \$60,000.00 for culverts with money saved from a bridge on 800 South to purchase more culverts. This is due to the increase in culverts next year.

Commissioner Schmaltz talked to Mr. Toops about 2 dead trees in Farmer's Retreat that are falling into the road. The box number by the trees is 6256. Councilman Ron Decker stated there is a really rough spot in the newly paved road at Delaware Road and 1400 North.

Commissioner Hankins asked about the paving of Michigan Road. Mr. Toops stated that he talked to Dave O'Mara and they would like to start next week but the rain is going to put them back.

Commissioner Schmaltz asked if we can do something with the road slide off on 200 North and 625 East.

Mr. Toops stated that he would go out and look at it and see what they can do.

Health Department – Dr. Welsh & Lexi Bushhorn

Dr. Welsh was in to talk about the CDC recommendations and State Department of Health on quarantine. Dr. Welsh stated the best option is to be vaccinated. Commissioner Schmaltz asked about the county schools. Dr. Welsh states it is a challenge but they are all open in Ripley County.

Johnson/Melloh – Rick Anderson

Mr. Anderson brought in an overview of the energy savings project. Commissioner Hankins asked if we trimmed this back where would you start. Mr. Anderson really thinks the savings is in solar. There was a long discussion on the project. The energy project cost is \$1,107,633.00.

911 Dispatch – Leah Hildebrand

Ms. Hildebrand was in the meeting to talk about the lighting strike that happened at the jail and 911.

Ms. Hildebrand has 2 grants one from Ripley County Community Foundation for \$500.00 and a \$5,000.00 grant from Rising Sun Regional Foundation.

Ms. Hildebrand came in to tell the Commissioners that she is going to go to Council to talk to them about raises. She is also asking for another person on the payroll. Ms. Hildebrand would like the blessing of the Commissioners.

American Rescue Plan

Attorney Ertel talked about the Memorandum for the renovation and expansion of the Milan EMS building. Councilman Ehlers asked the Commissioners to think about the people of Ripley County about the money being spent on a building on a lot that is not going to get any bigger. She thinks we need to look into other properties. Commissioner Horstman stated that the Council needs to talk about purchasing the building across from Milan EMS for a new EMS building.

Court Services – Shannon Schmaltz

Mr. Schmaltz came in to talk to the Commissioners about the Maternity Leave Policy. The part in question is on the foster parent portion of the policy. Mr. Schmaltz stated that foster parents can be 2 or 3 times a year.

Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to strike the or when becoming a foster parent out of the Maternity Leave Policy of the handbook, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chris Schmaltz, **Seconded by** Kendall Hankins. Motion passed unanimously.


Motion: Commissioner Schmaltz made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2021, **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 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