

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

September 03, 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 mentioned that Paul Brumley, structure engineer, stated that the Circuit Court Judge Office floor needs to be tore out to see the damage of the floor.

Mr. Herbert stated that Ms. Swinney, housekeeping annex, is wanting to hire a part time housekeeping. Commissioners stated for the Auditor to put an advertisement in for a part-time housekeeper.

Commissioner Schmaltz stated that Versailles Main Street is wanting to use the courthouse bathrooms on October 23, 2021. The Commissioners stated that this is fine.

Tourism – Terri Trowbridge

Ms. Trowbridge was in to replace Don Karbowski with Megan Gray on the Ripley County Tourism Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to appoint Megan Gray to the Ripley County Tourism Commission.,

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

Great Plains Communication (Formerly ETC) – Doug Foster

Mr. Foster was in to talk about the internet speed for Ripley County. Mr. Foster stated that they bumped up some speed of the internet. It is a \$50.00 per month increase. Mr. Foster brought in a new contract for the speed upgrade.

Auditor Copeland brought to attention that the Capital Asset Policy needs to be updated in Ripley County. Attorney Ertel is going to draft a new policy.

Auditor Copeland read what she had received from other counties on a maternity leave policy. The Commissioners stated that they still need more information. Commissioner Hankins stated that he is in agreeance with 2 weeks paid maternity leave for the mother, but not for the father.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve a new policy for maternity leave for new mothers, adoption and/or foster mothers, to get 2 weeks running concurrent with FMLA, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff – Kurt Enneking, Chief Deputy

Mr. Enneking stated that the jail and 911 was struck by lightning on 9/30/2021. There are a lot of things that need to be replaced and are still working on everything. There has been patching done so they can get by for now but are going to have to replace a lot of equipment. The elevator was down for a couple of days but is fixed now. It still could have damage that has not been seen yet.

Highway Department – Ray Toops

Mr. Toops stated that they have had an issue with the new tractor. They think it is a transmission problem. They are working on the problem with Zimmerman.

Mr. Toops stated in the last couple weeks they have completed 7-8 miles of ditching in the county.

Mr. Toops has a hand out for the Commissioners with the top 6 roads in the county that he thinks are the worse that we have. They are as follows: 1250 North, 1050 South, 700 South, 1425 North, 300 South, and 900 West. This is a total of 12.1 miles of roadway.

Dave O'Mara talked to Mr. Toops about Michigan Road. He stated that as soon as 129 South is done O'Mara will start on Michigan Road. They will start on the South end of Michigan Road. The project is estimated to start September 20, 2021.

Mr. Toops stated that 129 North is now open. Mr. Toops stated that he has not seen any damage to our road from the closure.

Commissioner Hankins asked how many miles where in the county, Mr. Toops stated that there are 711 miles.

The Commissioners and Mr. Toops want to try and get all the roads on a rotation and do more than 45 miles a year of chip and sealing.

Commissioner Hankins asked if the garage had heard anything from the state about 200 South. Mr. Toops stated we have 15 months to fix that with the money.

USI – Sherri Hinds & Rob Coop

Ms. Hinds wanted to touch base with the Commissioners on bridge inspections. Ms. Hinds just wanted the Commissioners to know that they are here to help.

EMS – Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman was in about the bid for the Poole Group, Inc. for the EMS building upgrade, Poole Group, Inc. is needing an answer. Commissioner Horstman stated the biggest problem is the funding. The bid is for \$788,000.00.

Commissioners came up with \$110,000.00 from sale of Delaware house, and \$183,000.00 from Cares Act money, and \$495,000.00 out of American Rescue Plan money.

Coroner - Jason Smith, Deputy Coroner

Mr. Smith was in to ask for guidance for the coroner office. Commissioner Schmaltz stated with the building in Osgood they need a set price for the building, but the board is not complying.

Attorney Ertel stated the board needs a resolution for the sale of the building.

Mr. Smith stated they are out of storage space for some supplies that they received through a grant.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the Malcon Malinowski Consulting, Inc. contract for 2021 - 2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Hankins made the motion to approve the August 23, 2021 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Kendall Hankins, **Seconded by** Chris Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.


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


Commissioner Horstman asked if any of the Commissioners wanted to be on a virtual call with the Mayor of Batesville, Margaret Mary Hospital, Economic Development, and a Commissioner. The Commissioners are going to opt out of the virtual meeting, but will read the minutes to the call.

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