

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the minutes from November 21. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dan Kelly and Brent Martin from the Republic County Hospital visited with the commissioners regarding the use of Republic County as a pass-through owner for a grant application to the Rural Hospital Innovation Grant thru KDHE. The grant is for the enlargement of the Lab area. The grant is a 1/3 from the state and 2/3 from the applicant.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the request to support the grant application. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he had visited with Kelvin Blecha regarding the remodeling project of the commercial hall at the fairgrounds. Clerk Marsicek will contact Blecha to invite him to the next Commissioner meeting for a report on the project.

Commissioner Garman asked about the status of the grant application from the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS). Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the deadline for the January 2023 funds was November 1. After receiving the new quote from Midwest Continent, it was too late to apply so Republic County will need to contact the KSHS for the next deadline. The condition of the steps is still usable but we must get them replaced whether or not we receive a grant. There was a suggestion of using the ARPA funds to complete this project. Clerk Marsicek was instructed to contact Midwest Continent for the status of the quote for the steps and the secondary quote for sealing the courthouse windows.

Clerk Marsicek is to contact Raymond Raney for an updated listing of ARPA projects approved and the balance available.

Michelle Griffin and Trell Grinter from the North Central Kansas region through OCKK and Kansas Department of Transportation presented a list of services offered to Kansas residents including 81 Connection, Kancare biking and our local transportation bus service. Their goal is to have affordable services for all persons to all parts of Kansas.

Stacey Bowen, Republic County Transportation Supervisor, announced the touring of the Rocky Pond lights will start December 1st and continue every Wednesday & Thursday evening through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bowen reported Mobility Week, November 7-11, was successful; which is a statewide event to bring awareness to the communities regarding general public transportation, and show appreciation to our supporters, and individuals who participate in the services offered. The Transportation Dept was able to promote Mobility Week with donations provided

by local businesses within Republic County; the excitement of the riders for the donations has been truly heartwarming.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, presented updates regarding the county and his office.

- Court has been very busy the past few months.
- Ferrell has contacted the landowner of the property Republic County rents to house the Republic County repeater and antenna for Emergency Management to complete a new contract.
- Ferrell will connect with Brent Cunningham regarding the issue of Nebraska TV stations verse Kansas TV stations.
- The 2022 delinquent tax sale is progressing. There should only be approximately 15 landowners.

Ken Robbins and Stacey Bowen presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Bowen presented two vehicle titles that were purchased on Kansas Surplus. They require signatures to transfer ownership to Republic County.
- Robbins presented a utility line agreement between Bostwick Irrigation and Republic County to construct and operate an underground irrigation pipe under 20 Rd 2000' south of us 36 and 20 Rd signatures.
- Robbins reported that several landowners are requesting tree removal in the right of way near their property.
- Robbins reported that the lead time of the complete rework on the grader is 10 weeks.

Commissioner Garman asked Robbins to acquire a map of the turbine project that shows the laydown areas, the turbine locations and the major haul routes. Robbins will contact the project manager for such a map that could be updated as necessary.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, joined the meeting to discuss proposed wages for her department.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding employees proposed wages. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Coons. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 7 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:07 a.m., taking to action.

Rob Kasl, Eagle Project, reported that the Eagle portion of the statue is being stored in a garage until the base can be purchased and an agreeable location to place the Eagle statue can be erected. The estimated cost of the base if granite could be \$50,000. Commissioner Jeardoe asked if Kasl could photo shop some areas to place the Eagle and report back to the Commissioners.

Susan Aaron announced there would be a LEPC meeting at 12:00 noon on December 13 for planning exercises for 2023 in the Emergency Operation Center at the courthouse.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, joined the meeting.

At 11:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding employee proposed wage. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Swanson. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:50 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 5, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman, Chairperson

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Melvin Jeardoe, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member