

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman and Edwin Splichal. Melvin Jeardoe was absent. 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.

Pastor Amos McCarthy, United Methodist Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Garman 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 December 5. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$232,446.86.

Clerk Marsicek and Deputy Travis Boyer discussed the 2023 plans for wage increases and how they would be implemented. Two types of increases could be possible. A tier or step increase on an anniversary date and/or COLA at the beginning of each year, which will be established by the Commissioners. The department head will be responsible to notify the HR/payroll department 30 days in advance that an employee will be reaching their anniversary date.

Kay Shoemaker, RCD treasurer, presented for signatures the lien release on Tuxies Ten Pin, LLC and the collateral assignment releases regarding the RCD loan since the obligation has been fulfilled.

Shoemaker notified the commissioners that there will be an RCD meeting in January.

Jenny Russell, Republic County Economic Development, explained that a new Resolution needs to be approved for the 2023 Rural Opportunity Zone.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-28 Authorization for Republic County to participate in the State of Kansas ROZ program. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Russell also announced that the RCED has not received any information on the grant for Modern housing in Republic County. Russell invited the commissioners to attend the annual RCED meeting after the first of the year.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, suggested that the board enter into an executive session.

At 9:30 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performance and wage scale. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Coons.

The board reconvened at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the Treasurer's wage scale. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Patrick Comstock, Custodian, presented a quote to fix the elevator in the courthouse. There is only one company that will travel here to work on the elevator. The quote was \$4,487.26 and if we don't fix it, we will not have an elevator. Comstock stated that the company urges Republic County to update our elevator system soon or parts may not be available. Commissioner requested Comstock to get quotes to update the elevator.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the Custodian's wage scale. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the County Attorney's wage scale. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Rock is being delivered on 200 Rd between Hickory Rd and King Rd.
- Robbins verified the letter to Billie Wilkins was sent.
- Robbins stated that there are 5 vacant positions in the department.
- Robbins presented the wage scale from 2022 and asked for a modification with the category of Truck Driver. He is requesting that the base increase to \$16.00 per hour.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to increase the base wage on Truck driver. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Garman asked how the weight limits are set on culverts and train cars used as culverts. Robbins shared that the engineering company sets the weight limits.

Sheriff Dave Cox visited with the board regarding his departments.

- Cox asked permission to acquire an additional credit card with the same limit for the Sheriff's department. There are occasions when two officers are out of town and need a card for fuel.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the additional credit card. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- There are 9 inmates in custody.
- There will be a fund raiser held on January 21<sup>st</sup> to raise funds for a new K-9.
- There have been citations to windfarm truck drivers.
- A patrol car hit a deer last month and the quotes for repairs have been received from Stephens Collision and Breeden's Body shop. The Commissioners instructed Cox to get it repaired where it can get repaired the quickest.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Assistant Director, presented for signature a grant application to KRAF Grant Program for YR2023.

Mike Hadachek and Keith Anderson, Republic County Industrial Committee, visited with the board.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss a Land Acquisition for possible purchase. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Hadachek and Anderson.

The board reconvened at 11:15 a.m. taking no action.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management Director, announced that the Federal Government has grant money through Treasury's Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. Republic County would be eligible for \$1000,000 over the next 2 years and all we have to do is apply by January 31, 2023.

Raney asked permission to retain Laura Leite and a project consultant and increase her wages to \$50.00 per hour.

The consensus of the board was to approve Leite's wage and to apply for the grant.

Raney also proposed the remodeling of the Dispatch area. Raney will present quotes of the project at a later date.

Clerk Marsicek presented letters of appointment for Township Clerk positions that are vacant for approval.

- Sharon Kirk as Scandia Township Clerk.

- Cheryl Denk as Elk Creek Township Clerk.
- Darrell Carlson as Courtland Township Clerk.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the appointments of the township Clerks. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the township Treasurer of Lincoln Township moved out of Republic County and a new Treasurer needs appointed. Vickie Noble has agreed to fill that position if appointed.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the appointment of the township Treasurer. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No.2022-29 to allow Cash Basis and Budget Law for 2023 and Resolution No. 2022-31 setting a refund policy for the overpayment of fees paid to County offices.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve both resolutions. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cindy Coons presented Resolution No. 2022-33 to set up a new bank account at the New Century Bank.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-33. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Clerk Marsicek presented for action Resolution No. 2022-30 containing the Commissioner Meeting dates, Payroll dates, Voucher due dates, Warrants paid dates and the Official 2023 Holidays for Republic County.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve list projected dates for County activities. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The consensus of the board is not to join the League of Kansas Municipalities.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 19, 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