

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES OF SPECIAL SESSION**  
**HELD AT THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING ON THE NCK FAIR GROUNDS DUE TO THE**  
**COURTHOUSE BEING CLOSED TO PUBLIC**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020**

The Republic County Commission met in special session on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Fred Arnold-The Belleville Telescope and Robert Mainquist-The Courtland Journal, observed the meeting along with 18 other concerned citizens and department heads of the Republic County (list is attached to permanent record).

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

Commissioner Jeardoe explained the meeting was to clarify the decisions to close the Republic County offices and to protect the citizens of Republic County from the spread of COVID-19 through the regulations delivered by the Republic County Health Officer and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

In the department head information meeting on March 18, Republic County Health Nurse and Administrator recommended that Republic County lock the doors from the public effective immediately. This recommendation was supported by the group in attendance, including Commissioner Jeardoe. After several phone calls from concerned citizens regarding the lack of access to records in the courthouse, the decision was made to hold a special meeting on March 19 to discuss options to assist the public.

Clerk Marsicek explained that the notice on the radio and posted on the doors of the county buildings stated that the buildings were closed to public but employees would continue to answer phone calls and internet requests. A list of department phone numbers was attached to the notices.

If the building was closed, no one except employees of Republic County could enter. If the building was closed to public but have limited access by appointment, the public could request access in person. This limits non-employees to where and when that person could enter the building. The person would call and set up an appointment time, answer the health questions, the department head would meet that person at the east door and escort that person to the department. When that person has completed their business, the department head will escort that person back to the east door and let them out.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, requested that the commissioners modify the building closure because she has had multiple requests for title searches and not all the deeds are listed online.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, stated that with the building closed, persons seeking drivers license updates must go to the Concordia drivers' license office. After Monday, the state will be closed for two weeks and no one will be able to get driver's license renewals until the state opens.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to modify the closure to the public to state the doors will remain locked to the public with limited access by appointment only and screening when entering the building. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Danielle Swanson, Republic County Health Administrator and Health Officer presented a list of questions for screening purposes for all employees to observe within their businesses and explained the process for a person to be tested for COVID-19. The health department is working to limit the spread of the disease in the county. Swanson stated, it is not if we get a case in Republic County but when. We need to be prepared. People need to do what is right for the majority not just for themselves.

A phone conference was held with Christi Cain, Director of Local Public Health Program of Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding the rules and duties of the Medical Director and Health Officers of a county.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 23, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Rolling Hills conference room.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

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Edwin Splichal – Member

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Marvin Bergstrom – Member