

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed part of the meeting.

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

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the October 5, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Snodgrass requested permission to plan the annual Easter Egg Hunt for April 2021. Usually his church purchases candy when it goes on sale after Halloween and if the church could not use the courthouse lawn, there was no reason to purchase the candy. Permission was granted to use the courthouse square.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution 2020-43, appointment of Terry Lambert as Road & Bridge Administrator, Solid Waste Director and Transportation Director. The resolution rescinds the interim directors for those positions.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-43. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney presented updates on SPARK funding in Republic County.

- The program leader has submitted the October report.
- Raney will discuss with the department heads the need for a plan of action if that department cannot operate in their regular office whether all staff is unavailable or the building is unavailable due to an emergency situation.
- Raney was granted permission to get bids for a truck to replace the current truck.

Patrick Comstock, custodian, asked permission to remove and trim some trees around the courthouse. Commissioners granted permission to get bids for the project.

Danielle Swanson joined the meeting via phone.

At 9:35 am, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel performance with the Health Department Director, Danielle Swanson. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Swanson by phone and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:50 a.m. Permission was granted for Swanson to release a news bulletin that an employee tested positive for COVID in the Health Department. The Health Department is still open for COVID testing but no regular services are being provided except for Home Health.

The Honorable Mayor of Courtland, Neely Kohmetscher, updated the commissioners.

- There are several new businesses in the last 5 years and one new business in 2020.
- Courtland is applying for grants to replace the sewer system.
- The City of Courtland thanked Republic County for sharing the county SPARK funds.

Terry Lambert, Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen, county shop and transportation, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Lambert has submitted a cost invoice for \$227.00 for repairs to the damaged road near Zion Cemetery.
- Craig announced that the patching on the asphalt south of Courtland is complete and crews are working on Fir Road west of Republic.
- Craig also announced that the asphalt crew has received several compliments on the work to S street beside the school ball field.
- Commissioner Jeardoe requested that each grader use the magnets provided occasionally to clean up metal pieces in the roadways.
- Craig announced that there has been a derailment of train cars on the crossing at the L road but Kyle railroad will get it taken care of before the end of the week.
- Bowen has been working on grants for 2022 for transportation.
- Bowen also stated that the number of riders on the bus has increased.
- Lambert presented for signature a utility agreement between Republic County and Rural Water.
- Lambert presented a proposal for Geotechnical Services from Terracon in the amount of \$5,200 for the bridge located at K-7.2.
- Lambert is negotiating with White Star to lease or purchase a bobcat since our lease agreement expires in November 2020.
- Lambert is researching the agreement between Republic County and Cloud Transfer station in regards to additional fuel charges since fuel is no longer over \$3.00 per gallon.

Clerk Marsicek reported that the Republic County Insurance committee met with Alisha Bond from HUB International to review the health insurance rates for 2021. The health and vision insurance rates for the employees will not increase however the dental rates will have a small increase.

Marsicek asked permission to offer the used IPADs from election for sale to employees by sealed bids. Permission was granted.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, reported that the EMT class is complete and students are in the testing stage. Beikmann is concerned about his employees being overstressed and not compensated for the hazardous jobs and extra hours during this pandemic. There are 6 full time employees and approximately 6 part time employees to cover regular shifts and transfers.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Notice, due to lack of quorum, the next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 26, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal– Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member