

# **REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 8:30am. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal and Melvin Jeardoe. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Secretary Susan Aaron recorded the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed part of the meeting.

Commissioner Jeardoe called the meeting to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Pastor Al Urich, Lutheran churches pastor, offered morning prayer. Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Splichal moved and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to approve the November 16, 2020, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable voucher were approved in the amount of \$103,485.21 for regular funds, and SPARK funds were approved for \$120,450.79.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, shared results of research on a county mask order. After reviewing options and verbiage, the commissioners decided to draft our own county-wide facial covering requirement until rescinded. The Resolution can be revisited anytime without a specific expiration date. Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve Resolution 2020-46 requiring the wearing of masks or other face coverings in public spaces, effective at 12:01am November 24, 2020, and to remain in effect until rescinded. The full resolution can be found on the home page of the county website, [republiccounty.org](http://republiccounty.org), or requested from the court house.

Urich raised the question of how to access testing without being in contact with anyone. The response was to call the Health Department to make arrangements.

Both commissioners will attend the Hospital Board meeting which will be held via Zoom only.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager, provided updated numbers on coronavirus cases in the county. He also updated on the balance of SPARK funds and potential ways to use the remaining funds. Quotes were provided to replace the Emergency Management vehicle.

- Melton's - 2021 Chevy 2500HD Silverado 4WD w/topper and running boards: \$34,425

- Conklin Cars Salina – 2021 Chevy 2500HD Silverado 4WD w/topper: \$53,099

Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to accept the quote from Melton's.

Judge Kim Cudney called to request permission to place a drop box specifically for court paperwork on the courthouse premises. The court system has provided funding for the drop boxes, but requires permission from local commissioners to work with county maintenance employees to place the drop box. Most likely the drop box will be placed next to the other two existing drop boxes on the east side of the court house. Permission was granted and Cudney advised to work with Pat Comstock, Maintenance Director.

Concerning employee Christmas appreciation, Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to provide gift certificates to the grocery store of choice – Cuba Cash or Food Mart - for \$50 for full-time employees and \$25 for part-time employees.

Sheriff Ron Blad presented concerns about two employees who may lose vacation hours. One, due to becoming sick so they could not take their use-or-lose hours and the other for changing from an hourly to a salaried position. Commissioners determined more research is needed with Human Resources before a decision can be

made. Sheriff Blad also requested to keep his county phone number when he retires as he has had this number for many years. Discussion will be held with the cell phone provider to see if our contract allows for his request.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, presented strong concerns about the 10 - 12 EMS personnel being exhausted and suffering burn-out. Beikmann is concerned that the department will lose staff at a time when they are especially needed. Past requests for hazard pay have been denied, even though similar entities and counties have received such compensation, due to county policy. Commissioners agreed that the EMS department is essential and want to encourage retention of staff. After discussion, Commissioner Splichal moved and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to provide \$1,000 per EMS employee at this time from the EMS budget and apply for SPARK fund reimbursement. SPARK funds do not allow for bonuses, but does cover wages for coronavirus-related activities such as cleaning, transports and back up for quarantined employees. Beikmann was advised to use his judgement and work with Human Resources clerk, Beth Ball. Beikmann is to review coronavirus-related wages for the time period beginning 9/1/2020 through the end of the year per employee to be considered for additional incentives.

Terry Lambert, Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste Director, presented and discussed with Commissioners the following.

- BG Engineering is 65-75% completed inspecting all county bridges. Five were found that needed completion of paperwork incurring an expense of \$2,000. Terry was given permission to sign the agreement to pay for the catch-up work.
- Following up on the waste tire grant, the grant would pay up to 50% to purchase items such as playground equipment which had been made from waste tires, not to clean up waste tires. The grant will not be pursued by the county.
- APAC has completed the bridge south of Scandia.
- The county worked with the City of Belleville to spread road oil sealant.
- Terracon did sample borings for bridge K7.2.
- The recycling trailer shared by Narka and Agenda is waiting for parts to repair the broken axle. So, the Courtland recycling trailer was moved temporarily to Narka.
- Four retired computers have been wiped and are ready for sale.
- Terry presented quotes for a track skid-steer to replace the one with its lease ending December 4. By purchasing or leasing new, repairs will be under warranty. Road and Bridge tested and preferred the 333G due to more power especially for using attachments.

- White Star Machinery – Purchase new T770: \$58,802.10

- White Star Machinery – Lease T770 2 years, \$7,000/year, 400 hrs maximum/year, average \$25/hr

- John Deere – Purchase new 331G: \$62,000

- John Deere – Lease 331G 1 year, \$7,000/year, 500 hrs maximum/year, average \$20/hr

- John Deere – Lease 333G 1 year, \$7,500/year, 500 hrs maximum/year, average \$20/hr

John Deere will include a severe-duty door on any of these bids valued around \$1,000.

Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to accept the quote from John Deere to lease the 333G for 1 year. John Deere will deliver the replacement when they pick up the expiring lease skid-steer on December 4.

- Insurance offered \$22,000 for the pickup damaged in the deer accident, repairs would be \$18,000. One quote is in from Melton's for \$33,000, waiting on a second bid from Dodge.
- The purchase of the used road graders includes a training package for four individuals to be given in December.

- Cloud County crane training includes 1 certified crane operator and 2 authorized operators from Republic County as well as 2 operators from Cloud County.
- Terry is watching the repair budget as year end is near.
- Employees who have been off for COVID or quarantined are returning to work this week.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the Juvenile Detention Board Meeting in Junction City on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Raymond Raney returned to discuss SPARK funds further. The balance of unspent funds must be spent by December 31. All funds are budgeted, but invoices are not being submitted to the coordinator to calculate an accurate balance of SPARK funds. Those with budgets are being encouraged to complete their spending as well as alternative projects are being considered. The next Republic County SPARK committee meeting is via Zoom at 1:30pm on Wednesday, December 2. Laura Leite, project coordinator, was called for further updates on funds. Revised budgets are due Friday.

Raney is still advertising for a full-time dispatcher position.

Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Raney for service to be the Local Data Steward and the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) Coordinator for 911.

Raney demonstrated a hand held UVC light which kills germs by holding the light over items to be sanitized, for example computer keyboards.

The Commissioners approved the RCED Housing Rehabilitation Incentive Program V2, dated 11-16-2020, sent by Luke Mahin.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal moved and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 12:05pm.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2020, beginning at 8:30am at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

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Marvin Bergstrom, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member