

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 1, 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 the meeting.

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

Pastor Wade Moss, Landmark 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 November 23, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney presented an update regarding purchases with SPARK funding for Republic County.

Raney announced that the SPARK committee will meet by ZOOM on Wednesday, December 2 to review the balance of the SPARK funds available to be used for COVID related expenses. Clerk Marsicek and SPARK's project leader will review unspent funds. Several possibilities as to mounting the message board for the courthouse lawn was discussed.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the treasurer's office is printing, sorting and preparing to mail the tax statements.

Commissioners discussed granting permission to the Republic County Hospital to use of the unrented portion of the lower level of the North Central Kansas Medical Arts building for a daycare center for hospital employees. The commission granted permission for the hospital board to use the building as long as the Republic County has no financial obligation.

Sheriff Ron Blad and Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, suggested that in light of the rise in positive coronavirus cases in Republic County that the commissioners consider restricting access into the courthouse. The 2020 tax statements will be mailed this week and many citizens personally deliver their payments to the courthouse rather than trusting the mail so the instruction of social distancing in the courthouse in the next few weeks needs to be monitored.

The commissioners will review the active case count at the next meeting in order to discuss any changes in policy.

Sheriff Blad asked if a decision has been made regarding the policy regarding carryover of vacation hours.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney joined the meeting and agreed to research the labor laws pertaining to vacation hours. Commissioners requested that Ferrell prepare the new 2021 rental contracts for the North Central Kansas Medical Arts building.

At 9:40 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:50 a.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the 2021 contract for services between Pawnee Mental Health and Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Lambert, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Lambert delivered the remaining employee evaluations.
- The bridge letting on K-2.4 will close next Monday, December 7.
- Lambert presented for signatures an agreement between Republic County and Landmark Implement for the rent of a 333G Compact Track loader for one year.
- Lambert announced that plans for the crane operator training will be in January 2021.
- Lambert presented two bids for a pick up to replace the 2015 Truck totaled in a deer incident.
 - Melton Motor in Belleville \$33,000.00
 - Farm Country in Concordia \$30,527.20

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the bid from Melton Motor. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Lambert stated that the hard drives have been removed from the 4 old computers.
- The Republic County Transportation buses will not run until December 4 this week.
- Lambert presented for approval a training agreement for employees at the road and bridge department.

Commissioner Jeardoe moved to approve the agreement and Commissioner Splichal seconded. Motion passed.

Raney returned to the meeting to discuss the possibility of hazard pay for employees in safety sensitive departments. Discussion was tabled until more data could be presented.

Commissioners discussed the health and safety of the employees within the courthouse in light of the increase in positive cases in Republic County and the fact that tax statements will be mailed soon. Citizens will be paying the taxes before the deadline. Commissioners recommend that Treasurer Coons highly encourage tax payers to use the drop box or mail their payments to insure social distancing and to place a Public Service announcement on the local radio and on the County website to encourage the use of the drop box and mail.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, called in to report that he is working on the actual total of COVID calls his department has responded to since March.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, December 7, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member