

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. 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.

Lay Pastor Al Urich, American Lutheran Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the September 26, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, presented a list of companies in India that produce electrical parts that the City of Belleville could contact instead of waiting on companies in China.

Clerk Marsicek presented two quotes from Central Office Supply for a copier.

- Sharp BP50C45 \$6,795.00 after trade-in of current copier
- Sharp BP70C45 \$7,749.00 after trade-in of current copier

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the purchase of the BP50C45. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek presented a wage sheet on behalf of Faye Jones, Health Department Administrator, for Diane Reed as a part-time RN with a starting wage of \$30.00 per hour.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, presented updated quotes for a command vehicle.

- TCS \$48,500.00
- Melton Motors \$46,709.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the purchase from Melton Motors. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Whitley shared that the number of transfers so far in 2022 has surpassed all prior years.

Beikmann shared that all paperwork has been submitted for the renewal of Medicare/Medicaid authorization.

Attendees during Public Forum were Deb Hadachek, Arlene Clayton, Layne Holmes, Joanne Filing, Jennifer Loring, Jeanette Sheets, Alan Anderson, Tommy Kokko and Brenda Danielson.

Holmes asked for clarification on who is paying Republic County's attorney from Wichita to prepare the windfarm agreements? Also, Holmes shared that if this windfarm project proceeds there will be a lot of liabilities placed on the citizens of Republic County

Commissioner Garman stated that all the invoices from Trish Voth are submitted to Next Era for reimbursement to Republic County.

Commissioner Garman stated that the commissioners' job is to protect the citizens of Republic County; Both sides of any issue to the best of their ability.

Danielson presented information from a Commissioner from Nemaha County for the commissioners to contact for his views of the windfarm that was erected in Nemaha County.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined via Zoom.

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 30 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes

The board reconvened at 10:15 a.m., no action taken.

Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented for review:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Road crews are working on the approaches to the bridge on Fir Rd near Republic.
- The next project will be the blacktop from US 36 to K-148.
- Robbins presented two utility agreements.
 - Between Thayne Larson and Republic County to construct and operate an underground PVC piping west of Timber and 100 RD.
 - Between Thayne Larson and Republic County to construct and operate an underground PVC piping north of Timber and 100 RD.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined via Zoom.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to recess into executive session for 20 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes

The board reconvened at 11:05 a.m., no action taken.

Brenda Danielson, concerned citizen, stated that she and other members of the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group have present many facts and information regarding how wind turbines are going to destroy Republic County from counties that have turbines. A testimonial from a Marshall County person stressing negative experiences with wind turbine companies.

Commissioner Garman assured Danielson that the Commissioners have reviewed all the documentation that the Wind Energy group has presented to them. The Commissioners are trying to do the job that the citizens of Republic elected them to do. The Commissioners do not want any one hurt by turbines and have researched their options for the best interest of the citizens of Republic County.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined via Zoom.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to recess into executive session for 20 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth. Commissioner Splichal and Commissioner Garman requested an additional total of 25 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:20 p.m., no action taken.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 10, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member