

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 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, Belleville Lutheran Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the August 15, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, stated that the alleys in the City of Belleville need attention. They do not look like they have been maintained for a long time. Clayton also thanked everyone that furnished time and food to the Methodist food stand during the NCK Free Fair.

Mabel Woodman asked permission to purchase a park bench and donate it in memory of Larry Woodman, a past employee of Republic County. Permission was granted.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2022-24, appointing Faye Jones as Republic County Health Administrator. Commissioner Garman moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Custodian Patrick Comstock presented one bid to repair the ceiling above the first-floor stairway due to damage caused by a shower in the jail area. He requested bids from three companies but only one return a bid. Allen's Home Remodeling & Repair bid was \$2,050.00.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bid for repairs. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Commissioner Splichal presented a letter of support for signatures for the Republic County Economic Development application to the Moderate-Income Housing Program. The consensus of the commissioners is to support by signing the letter.

Attendees during Public Forum were Jeremy LaFaver, Tommy Kokko, Alan Anderson, Brenda Danielson, Frank Rytych, Katherine Wilber, Luke Myer, Travis Lattin, Shane Donovan, Joanne Filinger, Arlene Clayton, Mabel Woodman and Dana Larson.

Commissioner Garman reminded everyone that all information is to be directed to the commissioners and not towards others in the room. Garman also announced that he has received many phone calls regarding the possible conflict of interest between 2 commissioners and the windfarm project. This question has been referred to our attorney.

Wilber suggested when the front steps are replaced that maybe the installation of heated steps would prevent the need for ice melt and help the steps last longer.

Myer, Donovan and Lattin, aerial sprayers, explained the challenges of wind towers around crop ground. Aerial spraying of crops is a business and a business has to make a profit to succeed. Spraying in on or around towers add extra time to the process and the landowner will be charged accordingly. One issue is communicating with the spray companies when towers are going up or when work will be completed so the sprayer and plan the spraying schedule.

LaFaver reported back on the sound issues regarding towers. The normal decibels projected around a tower need to be less than 50 which is about the same as light (whisper) conversation.

Anderson reported in regards to towers having ADSL lights, an application to the FAA have been sent. These lights will not blink continuously but will have a sensor that detects planes three miles away and turn on automatically.

Donovan asked if the windfarm company could notify local airports and fertilizing plants when tower construction begins.

Al Uphoff, concerned citizen, asked why the flags around the square are not all illuminated when they are up 24/7. In honor of all veterans, this should be done. Commissioner Garman will research the lightening requirements because Republic County does respect and honor our veterans.

Honorable Mayor of Scandia, Dana Larson, updated the Commissioners on activities in Scandia.

- Larson thanked Republic County for the contribution of ARPA funds for the new well.
- Scandia would like the county to help reseal streets in Scandia.
- Larson asked if the county road crew could fill the space with some type of material between the railroad tracks south of Scandia.
- Larson asked if the road department could review the gravel road south of Scandia one mile, (90 Rd).

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Garman brought to order the 2023 Republic County budget hearing and RNR hearing. With no one in attendance, it was suspended until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23.

Kokko reminded everyone of the meeting being held at the Cuba Community Center on August 25 from 6-8 PM.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann presented for signatures the final report for Medicare valuation. These forms need to be updated every 5 years.

Whitley announced that Paris Yungeberg will start field in-service that will be completed in November.

Whitley also presented 4 bids for a new command vehicle, however; no specific approval was granted. The consensus of the commissioners was to allow a purchase of a new vehicle but it could not exceed \$40,000 included the upfitting.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, presented Resolution No. 2022-23 to authorize the foreclosure of real estate tax liens and the sale of unredeemed real estate for property delinquent from 2019 and prior years.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-23. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman opened the delinquent Solid Waste (S/W) hearing for landlords. Susan Aaron, S/W Administrative Assistant, presented 9 owners/landlords that have delinquent S/W taxes in the amount of \$1,885.50.

Since there are no protestors to this hearing, Commission Garman closed the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented for review:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.

- Robbins is applying for bridge grant funds for 2 bridges, one on Lincoln Rd and one on Nickel directly east of Belleville. The total amount of funding requested is \$1,5000,000.00 for both.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked if the county could go to Scandia and review the gravel road just south of Scandia and if the crew could fill the area between the tracks south of Scandia. Also, if the county could assist with sealing the street through Scandia.

- Robbins announced that a crew is over at Scandia this morning working on the railroad track project.
- The Sealing of the street is scheduled for the week of September 12.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting.

At 11:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 1 hour 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.

The board reconvened at 12:40 p.m., taking no action.

At 12:44 p.m., Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 1 hour 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.

The board reconvened at 1:44 p.m., taking no action.

At 1:45 p.m., Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth.

The board reconvened at 2:00 p.m., taking no action.

At 2:01 p.m. Commissioner Splichal moved to enter into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth.

The board reconvened at 2:11 p.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 29, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman, Chairperson

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Melvin Jeardoe, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member