

## **REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal. Due to flooded roads, Melvin Jeardoe joined by phone conference. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek, the Belleville Telescope and Quinten Bergstrom observed parts 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, 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 July 20, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$185,257.58.

The commissioners will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting by Zoom invitation.

Resolution No. 2020-39, to extend Public Health COVID-19 Pandemic Resolution No. 2020-27 until rescinded by the Republic County Commission, was presented for approval.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-39. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Danielle Swanson, Justin Ferrell and Raymond Raney updated the commission in regards to their departments, Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) and the COVID-19 in Republic County.

- Swanson announced that the Health Department had a rough week last week. There were several new cases of coronavirus in Republic County.
- Swanson has visited with both school districts in Republic County regarding starting dates and procedures through the Pandemic.
- Since the expenditures can be reimbursed to each department from the SPARK direct funds, Swanson inquired that would it be possible to hire a full-time nurse instead of part-time nurse.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the full-time nurse position. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Raney announced that the SPARK leader Laura Leite is catching on quickly of the rules and requests and documents needed to supply to the state for approval of funding. Leite requests that any department that is requesting reimburse through the SPARK funds to have the requests submitted by July 31.

- Raney also requested that all road operators take pictures and identify location of flood damage.
- Raney announced that there will be some food vendors at the North Central Kansas Fair.
- Ferrell advised that people should not drive on the rain-soaked dirt roads.
- Ferrell announced that he reviewed the requests for SPARK funds from Pawnee Mental Health and Fort Hays University. Ferrell suggested that the commissioners use funds for local requests before approving out of county requests.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, requested signatures on the bank signature card to update the current employees in the Treasurer office.

Sheriff Ron Blad requested signatures on payroll sheets for one full-time and two part-time jailers.

- Full-time employee is Mark Persinger with a wage of \$12.00 per hour and benefits.
- Part-time employee is Brooke Luedke with a wage of \$12.00 per hour no benefits.
- Part-time temporary employee is Patrick Comstock at his regular custodian wage of \$14.53.

Correspondence was received from Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Property Valuation announcing that County Appraiser Barry Porter has met the statistical performance standards established for both the commercial and residential classes of property valuation.

Nathan Craig, Road and Bridge department, Stacey Bowen, Transportation department and Dan Snyder, Solid Waste department, presented updates:

- Bowen presented for signature an agreement between Republic County and Nex-Tech for installation of fiber Optic cable under county roads.
- Bowen will prepare a proposal for KDOT regarding the off-system bridge program in 2021.
- Bowen shared that approximately 50% of the use on her cell phone is for county business and her normal monthly billing is approximately \$72.00. The county rates for wireless phones for a county supplied phone is \$38.69. Commissioners will make a recommendation for reimbursement to be reviewed with the auditor.
- Snyder announced that due to the rainy weather, the landfill has been closed several days.
- Snyder also stated that the recycling trailers are back on their regular rotation.
- Craig contacted the landowner in regards to applying gravel on Jade Rd. The owner will purchase one load of gravel.
- Craig also stated that the approach work on the Scandia and Republic bridges has been delayed until the end of August.
- Craig announced that crews were out Sunday night placing barricades on a few roads in the northern part of the county due to flooding. Road crews will be taking pictures of damage caused by the flooding for Raymond Raney.
- Craig checked on the progress of the new Warwick bridge. The construction is proceeding when weather permits.

At 10:30 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel on performance issues. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig and Bowen. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:45 a.m. taking no action.

Susan Aaron, Solid Waste Administrative Assistant, requested signatures on three memorandum of agreements concerning collection and payment of Solid Waste fees between Republic County and Cities of Republic, Scandia and Courtland.

Wanda Backstrom, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, joined via ZOOM to present for approval the FY20 Year end program report for Kansas Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the year end report. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bergstrom asked what are the restrictions if a person is placed on quarantine from exposure to a positive COVID-19 case. The commissioners suggested that Bergstrom or the interested party contact the County Attorney or the County Health Officer.

Susan Aaron requested permission to share the commissioners' email addresses with other persons on the SPARK committee. Permission was granted.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 3, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair  
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Edwin Splichal– Member  
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Marvin Bergstrom – Member