

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 5, 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from November 28. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Toby Marco, County Appraiser, announced that his department is finalizing land values for a year end final.

At 8:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performances. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Marco and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 8:50 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the 2023 Appraiser employees wage increases without COLA which the commissioners will set later. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Kelvin Blecha, NCK Free Fair Chairman, reported the commercial building really needs a permanent heating system. Would there be funds available? He has an estimate of \$23,000 to \$25,000 from last summer but would like permission to research bids for a heating/cooling system. There are many functions held in that building year-round just not every day. Blecha was instructed to produce bids and it would be discussed in more detail.

Rob Kasl, Eagle Project, presented drawings of the base for the Eagle project. The base is 6' wide and 3' tall with the Eagle standing another 5'2" above the base. Kasl was unable to get a photo shopped picture of the statue in front of the courthouse. Commissioners asked Kasl to visit with the City of Belleville about installing it on the vacant lot adjacent to the courthouse lawn.

Ms. Nancy Meyer, Superintendent of USD 109, presented the wish list as requested from the Commissioner the prior week along with a lesson on school finance and where school funding comes from.

Commissioner Garman thanked Meyer for the information and will further discuss the possibility of donating funds to schools in Republic County.

Ken Robbins presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins thanked the Commissioners for the appreciation meal on November 30 and thanked Commissioner Splichal for presenting Mike Nondorf with his 20-year plaque.
- Robbins presented a draft of a letter to High Banks Wind LLC regarding the Haul Route and Developer Improvements.
- Robbins stated that the haul route and development improvement suggests that some road intersections need widening and ditches improved as a “V” ditch.
- Robbins introduced Tanner Yost, Brett Balkenhol and Dave Prater from Kirkham Michael. These are the onsite engineers to supervise the wind project.
- Yost shared that he is the manager lead for the windfarm project from Kirkham Michael and some of the transmission poles are being installed and the first structure will be located at 260 Rd and Diamond.
- The first road closure notice has been posted for 260 Rd from Elm Road to Diamond Road for structure placement starting December 12th to December 17th.
- Robbins presented a Utility agreement between Chris Morris and Republic County to construct and operate an underground PVC pipe under Penn Rd near 170 Rd for approval.

The approval of the ADLS lights was discussed and no confirmation has been received.

Commissioner Garman requested that Clerk Marsicek contact Trish Voth regarding the ADLS approval.

Permission was requested for Diane Reed to attend a training on the documentation system at Beloit on December 6.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the training. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Correspondence from the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging was discussed. Jay Kallman’s term, the current representative from Republic County, is expiring and someone needs to be appointed to the board. Kallman has agreed to be re-appointed.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to reappoint Kallman as a representative for Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, updated the commissioners on information regarding the EMS department.

- Beikmann announced there would be an EMT class starting in January 2023 and it will last approximately 6 months.
- The road department improved the parking area at the High Banks racetrack for the ambulances.
- Whitley asked if the commissioners had decided on the COLA for wages.

Commissioner Garman shared that a decision has not been made yet.

Raymond Raney visited with the commissioners regarding the new phone system. Twin Valley visited each department on November 30 to review the needs of each department. Raney presented information on a phone for the commissioner’s room that contained 4 portable speakers for phone conferences. Commissioner Garman suggested that the departments decide when the best time to install the new phones. Toward the end of January seems to be the best for most departments in the courthouse.

Raney presented a map with all the intersections currently that don’t have a road sign installed. Most of the dirt roads in the windfarm footprint will become gravel roads.

Raney updated that the courthouse generator location has been staked out and waiting on Hoge Concrete to pour the base.

Raney presented the most recent listing of ARPA funds including approved expenses and unapproved expenses.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, suggested that the board enter into an executive session.

At 11:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners and Coons. Commissioner Garman requested and additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:00 p.m., taking no action.

Raney returned to the meeting to offer for approval wage scale for the communication department. Raney explained that since his original wage scale was created back in May, there has been a large increase in the starting wages for dispatchers throughout Kansas. Raney's wage scale was never approved back in May and requests that this new wage scale be adopted. The new scale includes a proposed estimated COLA so no additional COLA can be added for 2023.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the wage scale that has an estimated COLA, so no additional COLA can be added for 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Clerk Marsicek notified that there will not be an RCD meeting in December per Kay Shoemaker.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 12, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member