

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 26, 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 Robert Frasier, United Presbyterian 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 minutes from October 13, 2020. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$78,722.04 for regular funds and \$26,142.64 for SPARK funds.

Both Commissioners will be attending the Republic County Hospital Board meeting by Zoom.

Raymond Raney, Danielle Swanson and Justin Ferrell presented weekly updates regarding COVID and department issues.

Ferrell announced that he communicated with Cunningham Cable and their attorney regarding the process to apply for Kansas channel coverage instead of Nebraska. Ferrell stated it will be a slow process.

Swanson stated that positive COVID cases in Republic County have slowed down and approximately 100 residents are on quarantine and testing supplies are available.

Commissioner Splichal asked Swanson if the commission needed to change any COVID policies relating to masks in the courthouse. Swanson agreed that each department could make special requirements if the department feels it is necessary.

Raney announced that a SPARK committee meeting will be held on Wednesday at the Belleville City Office for the purpose of reviewing the expenditures for the direct spending items and review new requested items that need to be ordered.

At 9:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for confidential information regarding employee issue. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Swanson and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:55 a.m. taking no action.

Permission was granted for Belleville Mainstreet to use the courthouse square for the annual Christmas on the square on November 27, 2020.

Terry Lambert, Highway and Solid Waste Director, presented and discussed with the Commissioners the following:

- Lambert is planning a county road tour for the commissioners on November 16, weather permitting.
- Employees are cross-training between asphalt patching and bridge building.
- Republic County has received a bridge grant to replace bridge T-22.7 if we can present a second bridge to fix. The second bridge has been submitted, so the grant was approved.
- Lambert has created a new employee evaluation and the supervisors are performing the annual evaluation process with employees and Lambert reviewing results.
- Lambert presented a quote for a motor grader from Foley Equipment with a trade-in of two older graders. Commissioners requested an additional quote with only the trade-in of one grader since the grader sold during 2020 on Purple Wave was sold for \$66,000.
- Lambert toured the county with Mike Nondorf, Weeds Director, to review areas that need extra work.
- Commissioner Jeardoe mentioned a concern regarding a stretch of road on Nickel west of 290 Rd. If it is not a closed road, it should be either maintained more or be closed? Lambert will have the operator and supervisor evaluate the road.
- Lambert presented a wage change sheet for Ethan Smith because he has completed his CDL training. The increase is to go from \$11.75 to \$12.50.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Those attending the session were the commissioners and Lambert.

The board reconvened at 11:00 a.m. taking no action.

Commissioners reviewed an amendment to the contract with Lindburg, Vogel, Pierce Faris Chtd regarding auditing the SPARK fund account in December.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the amended contract. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek presented an optional new benefit for employees called MASA Assist, premier provider of pre-paid medical transportation assistance. The premium is \$14 per month per family.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve offering MASA to the employees as a payroll deduction during 2021 and if the majority of employees apply, the commissioners will re-evaluate it for a possible benefit paid by Republic County in 2022. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 2, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal– Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member