

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 28, 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 and commissioner-elect Doug Garman 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, Belleville Presbyterian 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 December 21, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney and Danielle Swanson presented an update regarding purchases with SPARK funding for Republic County and pandemic numbers.

Swanson announced that as of December 28, Republic County has a total of 551 positive cases with only 40 active cases. Swanson stated that Republic County has received 500 test kits for the SPIT sampling. Until the health department has been trained on the procedures of the new test, the new test will not be available. The Health department has administered 20 COVID shots to healthcare providers including dentists, EMTs and Funeral home employees in Republic County.

Considering the decline in active cases in Republic County, the Commissioners will review the mask mandate at the January 4, 2021 meeting.

Raney announced that Governor Laura Kelly has extended the deadline for filing reports exhibiting the use of SPARK funds to at least March 31. Raney also announced that several cases of hand sanitizer and PPE has been delivered to cities and churches prior to the Christmas holiday gatherings.

The commissioners unanimously voted for the Rocky Pond display on the courthouse lawn as the winner for the 2020 Christmas display. Rocky Pond committee will be awarded \$50 Chamber bucks.

Kay Shoemaker presented for signature a letter notifying Doug Parks of the final payment of loan RCDL 102-11/14. Shoemaker also requested permission to release lists of property on current loans to the Republic County appraiser. The commissioners will review this request with the county appraiser and notify Shoemaker of their decision.

Gary Cline, Honorable Mayor of Scandia, thanked the county for the repairs to the approaches to the bridge south of Scandia. Cline announced that the recycling trailer will now be delivered to the recycling center for unloading at Mankato by county employees. The City of Scandia will call the county shop when the trailer is full.

Terry Lambert, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Lambert presented the 2021 bridge inspection report to review.
- Lambert reported that he visited with Cloud County employee, Mike Hakes, regarding the Interlocal Solid Waste agreement regarding the monthly fuel charge. Hakes will discuss the calculations of the fuel charge with the Cloud County Commission and respond back to Lambert.
- Lambert reported that the City of Belleville has delivered 75 loads of building debris to the landfill this year.
- Road maintainers have dug the roads near the landfill and in the landfill receiving area and have gathered a large amount of wire, nails and other metal from the area.
- Lambert shared that the recycling trailer from Scandia will now be added to the regular rotation to be picked up and delivered to the recycling center at Mankato.
- Lambert presented for signature a utility agreement between Brad Hobelman and Republic County to install underground electrical line.
- Lambert has permission from Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to remove the fence between the Republic County and KDOT property.
- Lambert announced that the pickup that was totaled by the deer has been sold for salvage and the insurance claim has been paid.
- Lambert stated due to the 2021 budget already approved, the reimbursement request for the transportation department for additional personnel will be postponed until 2022.

At 10:25 a.m., Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance and wage increases. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Garman and Lambert.

The board reconvened at 10:35 a.m., Commissioners agreed to additional increases for a few employees.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, reported that the road east of the school is very rough since it has been sealed for the winter.

Barry Porter presented the county land use valuation report. The overall percentage change in land is very low for 2021 valuations.

Commissioner Jear DOE requested information from Porter regarding the release of loan details from Republic County Development. Porter explained that by having the details of loans for purchase of equipment, the personal property can be appraised more accurately.

The commissioners will give Shoemaker permission to release the information to the appraiser's office.

Swanson rejoined the meeting to discuss employee wages for 2021.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Jear DOE made motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel employee wages and job performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, commissioner-elect Garman, Swanson and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 25 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:10 p.m., Commissioners agreed to allow the health department employees to receive a 3% raise for 2021.

Raney rejoined the meeting to discuss communication employee issues.

At 12:12 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel employee issues. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Garman, Raney and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:27 p.m., taking no action.

Following a review of requested wage increases for EMS, the requests would be approved at 3-5% for 2021. The commissioners also discussed a \$1,200 wage increase for elected officials except for the new sheriff who will remain at the current wage and the commissioners will not receive an increase.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-49, Elected officials wages effective January 1, 2021.

County Attorney	\$54,740.00
County Sheriff	\$52,300.00
County Treasurer	\$43,100.00
County Clerk	\$43,100.00
County Register of Deeds	\$37,100.00
County Commissioners	\$15,000.00

Discussion was held regarding county employees that work as a volunteer fireman to receive their regular hours wage if responding to a fire during regular working hours. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to support our county employees that are also firemen by paying them regular pay of their regular shift while responding to fire. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve a shift differential of \$1.25 per hour for the regularly scheduled night shift deputies of Republic County for worked hours only, effective February 1, 2021. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 4, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member