

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from Belleville Telescope monitored the meeting.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Commissioned Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the February 28, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$178,642.05.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development secretary, left a message announcing there would be no meeting in the month of March.

Danielle Swanson reported only one new active coronavirus case last week and the number of tests has greatly decreased. Swanson presented a list of grants for signature which the commissioners approved. Swanson reported that 2 of the cars for the Health department need repairs and would suggest they be traded in on another vehicle. Commissioners requested that Swanson start looking for a replacement vehicle.

Swanson presented for approval a permission to travel for three nurses to attend a Health Conference in Manhattan from March 29 to 31. Permission was granted.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management Director, reported that the Annual Storm Spotter meeting will be held on March 15 at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds.

Raney mailed out 7 requests for quotes for the storm spotter meal but only two were received by the deadline.

- TAGS Pulled Pork sandwich, chips & baked beans \$9.25 per plate
- TAGS Pork Loin Meal, scallop potato, green beans \$13.00 per plate

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the Pork Loin meal. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Annette Bredthauer, Terry Marcotte, Kelli Childs, Kurt Childs and Brian Isaacson joined the meeting to discuss the High Banks Windfarm project. Bredthauer sent an email displaying the FAA plotting of the proposed windmills in Republic County. The group explained several disadvantages of the windmills and they wanted the commissioners aware that not all citizens of Republic County support the project.

Commissioner Garman explained that Republic County is working with an offsite attorney and the commissioners will voice the groups concerns to this attorney including the question regarding the long term benefits to Republic County as a whole.

Principal Alan Sheets, Republic County Jr/SR High School, presented a suggestion for the use of county Drug and Alcohol funds to purchase VAP detectors for the school. The commissioners suggested that Sheets visit with the Pike Valley High School in regards to VAP detectors for their school building then return to the commissioners with a joint request.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, and Ken Robbins, R & B administrator, joined the meeting to converse with Trish Voth regarding the agreement between Republic County and Foulston Siefkin LLP.

Trish Voth, Attorney for Foulston Siefkin, LLP, joined the meeting by ZOOM to discuss the agreement between Republic County and herself as a consultant attorney.

At 10:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Attorney/Client privilege for confidential business data. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Voth, Ferrell, Robbins and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 45 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:10 a.m., taking no action.

Ken Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste Director joined the meeting. Robbins presented and discussed with Commissioners the following:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The recycling trailer has been delivered.
- Following the meeting with the citizens that had fences damaged due to the fires last spring, Robbins presented the settlement amounts to the County Attorney and the commissioners. The vouchers will be processed for payment to the citizens.
- Robbins plans to contact all the cities in Republic County to develop a County-wide cleanup this spring.

Ferrell returned to meeting to present Resolution No. 2022-16 to appoint Starla Nelson as Special Prosecuting attorney during Ferrell's absence March 14 to March 16.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-16. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

There were 3 permission to travel requests.

- Permission to travel for Levi Whitley to attend Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention training in Great Bend on March 11.
- Permission for Clerk Marsicek to attend Sanborn continuing education in Wichita from March 10 to March 11.
- Permission for Clerk Marsicek and Deputy Clerk, Travis Boyer to attend the spring gathering of NCKCCA in Lincoln, KS on March 17.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve all the travel requests. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman presented a request from Rural Water District #1 for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to assist with repairs to water leaks. The estimated repair costs from Schwab-Eaton is \$789,675 of which they are asking Republic County for \$350,000 or any amount would be welcome.

The Commissioners want information posted to inform citizens and individuals that the deadline to file an application for funds from the ARPA money will be April 21. The commissioners will review all applications on April 25 and make suggestions to Laura Leite the ARPA project manager.

At 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Melvin Jeardoe– Member