

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 19, 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 Amos McCarthy, United Methodist Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the September 12, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff David Cox presented updates regarding his department.

- Cox presented an agreement for review between Republic County and Pawnee Mental Health.
- Cox said the fuel issues are reducing by modifying routes of the deputies.
- K-9 Betti will be attending recertification training next week. In the future, there will be plans to replace Betti.
- Currently there are 9 inmates in our facility.

Toby Marco, County Appraiser, announced that there has been a change in the commercial matrix which requires additional training. Marco asked permission to attend the training.

Permission to travel was granted to Toby Marco to attend PVD training in Topeka from September 20 to September 22.

Marco explained that by statute appraisers are not required to contact landowners when an inspection will occur but appraisers try to contact the landowner by letter or announcements on the radio 1-2 weeks ahead of the inspection day. Field inspectors leave a card hanging on the door if no one is around.

Attendees during Public Forum were Deb Hadachek, Joanne Filinger, Alan Anderson, Tommy Kokko, Brenda Danielson, and Robert Lahodny.

Hadachek presented a copy of an Affidavit of Jacob Stofer regarding the changing of use of the Endowment on behalf of the Stofer family to the Republic County Hospital from using the interest only each year to applying the total amount toward the expenses of the new trauma center and nursing station. Hadachek also announced a tentative open house of the hospital improvements for October 20 which is also the annual Radio-a-thon.

Filinger requested any updates on the agreements with Next-Era energy project.

Commissioner Garman stated that the agreements are still being reviewed.

Danielson presented current court cases between Next-Era and other wind farm projects in the United States courts along with several emails voicing objections to wind projects.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, and Ken Robbins, Road Administrator joined the meeting.

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to enter into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner

Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Voth and Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes

The board reconvened at 10:00 a.m., no action taken.

At 10:04 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 1 hour for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth.

The board reconvened at 11:04 a.m., no action taken.

Jenny Russell, Republic County Economic Development coordinator, joined via phone conference to discuss a request for ARPA funds to support a grant for the Belleville Housing project and the build a house outside the Belleville city limits.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the contribution of \$35,000 toward the Belleville Housing project and \$25,000 toward the build a house project if the grant application is approved. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 26, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member