

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Doug Garman was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes.

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

Pastor Wade Moss, Landmark Church of 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 August 29, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented a proclamation from Pawnee Mental Health to proclaim September as Recovery Month. Consensus of the Commissioners was to proclaim September as Recovery Month in Republic County.

Permission to travel was approved for Faye Jones to attend the North Central Kansas Health Care Collaborative meeting in Salina on September 19.

Permission to travel was granted to Toby Marco to attend the County Market Modeling workshop in Topeka from October 4 to October 5.

Arlene Clayton shared an article from the Research and Extension flyer regarding a new business opening in Courtland. It will be a wellness center and it should be a great asset to Courtland and Republic County.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the resignations of Brad Shrader as Norway Township Treasurer and the newly appointed Norway Clerk Barbara Jan Jacobson. Jeardoe made a motion to approve the appointment of Barbara Jan Jacobson as the new Norway Treasurer. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motions. Motions carried.

Clerk Marsicek presented a letter requesting that Retha Blecha of the Democratic Party and Patrick Comstock of the Republican Party be approved as electors to be present when the destruction of ballots are destroyed according to the retention schedule. Consensus of the board is to approve those persons.

Persons attending the public forum were Layne Holmes, Melody Joy, Robert Lahodny, Brenda Danielson, Jeannette Sheets, Tommy Kokko, Alan Anderson, Katherine Wilber, Harold Wilber and Annette Bredthauer.

Holmes has respect for the commissioners and the issues they have been working through regarding the proposed windfarm project. Holmes asked if either Commissioners had visited directly with any windfarm agent regarding the project. Have these landowners that signed the agreements sent them to their lawyers for approval before signing them?

Commissioner Splichal stated that neither he nor Commissioner Jeardoe have had any private meetings with anyone from Next-Era regarding the proposed project.

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that all agreements will be made public before the commissioners take any action toward them.

Lahodny shared that yes, he consulted with his attorney before he signed the agreements.

Holmes stated that the commissioners are not being transparent with the citizens about what negotiations are being offered regarding the four agreements between our Windfarm attorney and Next-Era's attorney. If this project goes

through, there will be many unknowns about future issues such as decommissioning. Who knows how much it will cost to decommission a turbine, especially if Next-Era sells the project to another company in years to come?

Holmes emphasized that it should be the people's choice not just the commissioners.

H. Wilber shared that there will be growing pains with any project but the non-participants rights need to be protected. The windfarm company should not tell Republic County what they will donate but the county should set the amount that the county needs to allow the windfarm to build. Other businesses that are developed pay an In Lieu of Tax for a certain period before they go on the tax roll in full.

Anderson explained that In Lieu of Tax does not apply to utility companies. The lifetime exemption was changed on December 31, 2016 to a 10-year exemption, however, the businesses can offer a donation. NextEra has offered a donation to Republic County in an agreement.

Danielson stated that the information last week from Jeremy LaFaver was not correct. The noise level is far more than a fan running and shadow flicker is a large issue with turbines.

Bredthauer attended the open meeting in Cuba and disagrees with the health expert on the panel. The studies that were shared were over 20 years, old not current data.

K. Wilber reported that the county must install handrails on the front steps when they are replaced. Commissioner Jeardoe shared with her that there is a handrail on the front steps currently and they will be reinstalled when the steps are replaced. Jeardoe also stated that he has all the documents from the last grant for the steps and he will be working on writing the new grant application and if Wilber and others would submit letters of support for the grant, it would be very appreciated.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal made a motion and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 12, 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