

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 28, 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.

Pastor Craig Roberts, Associate Pastor of Landmark Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the March 21, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Commissioner Jeardoe and Commissioner Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital board meeting at noon.

Kim Springer, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) executive director, presented their annual report and announced that April 1st is wear Blue day. Springer also asked if the Commissioners would proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention month.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention month in Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Bids for a water fountain for the first-floor hallway were reviewed.

- Rizek \$1,808.72
- Hoods Heating/Air \$2,833.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the bid from Rizek. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Jeannette Sheets, concerned business owner, encouraged the commissioners to review all aspects of the windfarm project and to get all information out to the public before making any decisions.

The Honorable Mayor of Munden, Jimmie Blecha, asked if the windfarm project proceeds to make sure that the regular public roads remain open to the citizens. Blecha also asked if Rural Water District #2 had applied for funding from the ARPA funds. Commissioner Jeardoe stated that at this time only Rural Water District #1 has applied for a specific amount from the ARPA funds.

Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented and discussed with Commissioners the following:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The largest quantity of the culverts should be delivered today, March 28.
- The road crew is finishing the Ash Rd repairs this week.
- Robbins presented 2 utility agreements for approval
 - Kansas Bostwick to construct an underground pipe under 60 Rd.

- Rural Water District #2 to install waterlines under the road between Sections 33 and 34 and again under the road between Sections 27 and 26.
- Robbins asked permission to use 40 hours of banked sick leave for an employee. Permission was granted.

Ken Robbins, Barry Porter, Levi Whitley and Clerk Marsicek presented information from the department head meeting regarding establishing a Longevity policy for Republic County employees. Since several Department heads have not presented a wage scale to the commissioners, the issue was tabled while more information is gathered. Commissioner Garman agrees that when Longevity policy is accepted, it will be added to the new Employee Handbook but each department needs to have a separate handbook created for additional information only pertaining to that department. A copy of each department’s handbook must be given to the Clerk’s office as an official handbook.

People attending from the Republic County Responsible Energy Group were Mike Kolman, Matt Dowell and Annette Bredthauer. Kolman, spokesperson for the group, presented a large picture showing where the proposed wind turbines will be located and residences and asked permission to display the picture on the main landing in the courthouse. Commissioners granted the permission but only for information purposes.

The goals of the group are to create and supply enough detail to show the size of the project and owners who have given permission to NextEra/High Banks Windfarm Project to build towers. Show the size of this project in eastern Republic County and western Washington County. To show that rural Republic County is really residential, close to being a suburban area to the towns, not a rural farm country with 100’s of acres in between homes.

Kolman stated in his handouts that the purpose of this group is to inform the general public with the concerns about Industrial Wind, including health, safety, environmental, economic and visual, which will impact all the of Republic County. Before the County signs any contracts, they are asking the commissioners to allow time (3-6 months) for the citizens to get informed on how this project will impact Republic County before moving forward with any binding contacts with High Banks Wind Project.

At 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn in order to attend the Hospital board meeting. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 4, 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