

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 31, 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 The 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 Jacob Rice, Central Christian Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the May 23, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Barry Porter, County Appraiser, presented a wage scale and job descriptions for his department. Porter also presented wage comparisons to other Kansas counties.

Tommy Koko, Allen Anderson, from NextEra joined the meeting along with Harold Wilber, Steve Scofield, Annette Bredthauer, Joanne Filing, Jeanette Sheets, Brenda Danielson and Kurt Childs as concerned citizens.

Kurt Child asked if the commissioners are going to issue a resolution for a moratorium on the windfarm project.

Commissioner Garman reported that the commissioners will not make any final decision until all the information to the questions asked by concerned citizens have been answered and all the requested changes to the agreements are agreed to by NextEra. So, no moratorium resolution is necessary since it has already been more than 3 months of research and modifications since the agreement proposal had begun.

Commissioner Jeardoe agreed with the statement made by Commissioner Garman.

Commissioner Splichal added that the commissioners have been crawling slowly through many hours of information and research during attorney client sessions to develop the best agreement for Republic County citizens.

Childs asked if the FAA had approved the ADLS lighting for all turbines. Anderson assured everyone that the application for ADLS lighting has been requested for each turbine.

Wilber request clarification on the lack of Commissioners support in the article relating to the request for additional funding from the North Central Kansas Free Fair board to finish the remodeling project at the commercial hall in the Belleville Telescope. Commissioner Garman assured Wilber that the commissioners are willing to supply the needed funding. They are asking for an exact quote so the project will be completed without another request.

Ashley Schuler, District Court Clerk, presented 2 quotes for electrical work in the courtroom for approval.

- Knox Electrical \$4,087.50
- Hood Plumbing & Heating \$7,016.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the lowest bid-Knox. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Danielson asked if the commissioners could share what the original agreements were before modifying with the public. Danielson also shared information regarding animals born with birth defects possibly associated to windfarm areas.

Sheets invited each commissioner to attend a free movie at the Blair Theater on Wednesday, June 8 called Windfall.

Bredthauer continues to request that the commissioner slow down on progress of the windfarm project until all the public can digest information.

Anderson stated that there are over 40 windfarm projects backed by NextEra and NextEra will provide answers to anyone's questions. They have an office in the Kallman Office Suits stop by or leave a message.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, presented her budget request for 2023. Swanson explained that the main duty of the Register of Deeds overall job is "To Protect the Integrity of Land Ownership" by recording and maintaining accurate records according to state statues. Swanson also presented recording data from past years to current, showing the growth in electronic recording usage and the sustained land and bank transactions in Republic County. The office continues to focus on digitalizing and back-indexing older documents, so that searching is made easier and more efficient, with remote access services being available to searchers as well.

Permission was granted for Sandee Swanson to attend the Ks Register of Deeds Association Spring Seminar from June 14 through June 17.

Kenneth Robbins, Stacey Bowen, Max Wickstrum and Nathan Craig from the Highway, Transportation and Bridge areas presented for review:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins is short 5 employees at the R&B department.
- Robbins presented a 6-year Capital Plan for equipment.
- Robbins presented the proposed 2023 budgets for R&B, Sp. Bridge, S/W, Transportation and Fuel Center.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Preparedness and Communication Director, presented the wage scales for each department using three methods.

- R&B percentage scale type
- EMS percentage scale type
- Current national COLA percentage scale type
- The 2022 wage percentage scale

Raney also notified the commissioners that the long-standing tower lease with Robert Dusek will expire on October 31, 2022.

EMS Director Levi Whitley asked permission to use one of the vehicles from the Health Department. Permission was granted.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented a wage scale and proposed budget for 2023 for the Treasurer's office including a wage comparison with other Treasurer's office in other counties.

Clerk Marsicek presented budget requests and wage scales for four departments, Custodian, Noxious Weeds, County Attorney and Clerk's office for review by the Commissioners.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2022-17 to appoint Starla Nelson as special prosecuting attorney for Republic County while Justin Ferrell is absent from his office June 2 through June 7.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-17. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

At 12:45 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess the meeting while traveling to Concordia to interview candidates for the joint Appraiser. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The board reconvened at the Cloud County Commissioners Boardroom at 1:30 p.m. attending the joint meeting were Commissioner Ron Cople, Commissioner Bill Czapanskiy, Commissioner Gary Caspers, Commissioner Splichal, Commissioner Jeardoe, Commissioner Garman, Cloud County Clerk Shella Thoman and Clerk Marsicek.

At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to interview non-elected personnel candidates for County Appraiser. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Sally Crane, Clerk Thoman and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Cople requested an additional 15 minutes.

The boards reconvened at 2:20 p.m., taking no action.

At 2:20 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to interview non-elected personnel candidates for County Appraiser. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Lance Leis, Clerk Thoman and Clerk Marsicek.

The boards reconvened at 2:50 p.m., taking no action.

At 2:55 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to interview non-elected personnel candidates for County Appraiser. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Wendy Dunagan, Clerk Thoman and Clerk Marsicek.

The boards reconvened at 3:35 p.m., taking no action.

At 3:40 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to interview non-elected personnel candidates for County Appraiser. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Toby Macro, Clerk Thoman and Clerk Marsicek.

The boards reconvened at 4:10 p.m., taking no action.

Following a review of all candidates, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 6, 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