

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman in person and Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal via Zoom. 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God 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 July 18, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$311,860.94.

Arlene Clayton reported that there has been a deceased cat at the end of an alley way. She has reported it to the City of Belleville, the sheriff's office and she suggests that the Health Department remove it because it is a health issue for the county.

Clayton reported that Cloud County Community College reported that using wind energy will save on natural resources. Clayton attended the meet and greet at the Astra Bank where Katie Sawyer, Lisa Moser and Elaine Bowers discussed issues regarding Kansas citizens.

These persons joined the meeting for public forum: Arlene Clayton, Tom Lesovsky, Peg Lesovsky, Robert Aldridge, Brad Kalivoda, Paul Chopp, Tony Strnad, Melroy Kopsa, Cindy Kopsa, Idan Kauer, Doris Kauer, Frank Rytych, Noah Cardi, Allen Junek, Sandra Junek, Joan Baxa, Cheryl Denk, Robert Lahodny, Butch Gieber, Linda Gieber, Kelli Childs, James Rundus, Wayne Pachta, Brenda Danielson, Jeanette Sheets, Alan Anderson, Tommy Kokko, Jeremy LaFavor, Chris Pachta, Jim Pachta and Katherine Wilber.

LaFavor represented Halo company out of Kansas City, Missouri which he started about 6 months ago to assist landowners with renewable resources like wind energy. If anyone wants information, they can contact him.

Rytych announced that he is all for the development of windfarms in Republic County, hopefully, it will bring more people back to Republic County.

Doris Kauer wants to see the project move forward and has no issues with the project. We have wind in Kansas, why not use it for the betterment of Republic County.

Melroy Kopsa has worked for an electrical company for 30 years and said that Republic County needs the supplemental power of the windfarm. All utilities get transferred to grind to be dispersed to the areas that need it.

Anderson agreed with Kopsa that all power is transmitted to a grind to great the best pricing for users.

Lesovsky reported that he has toured many of the windfarms around the area and wants money to come into the county not just go out.

Strnad appreciates all the time the commissioners have taken to analyze all the information before making any decisions.

Commissioner Garman emphasized that the commissioners have evaluated all of the information presented to the board.

J. Pachta explained that the persons for the project are within the footprint of plan and those against are outside the footprint. Pachta explained that windfarms have been in the United States for 40 years, if they were a safety and health hazard, the government would have shut them down.

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that he sees the windfarm project just like a new business coming to Republic County asking for refunds for so many years before they pay the total taxes.

Kalivoda wants to bring more money into the county to help it grow.

Childs stated her concern is for the health, safety and welfare of non-participating families.

Danielson doesn't want to look out her window and all she can see is towers.

W. Pachta doesn't think that Republic County will ever have a project like this to boost the economy if we don't do it now.

Commissioner Splichal thanked all persons attending the meeting and voicing their information.

Wilber presented the Kansas preservation Act Regulations for the commissioner to review as we plan to repair the front steps of the courthouse.

Tammy Taylor and Darin Bates from Twin Valley Communications presented a quote to install a new phone system in the courthouse. There are two options: use current cables or install new cables. All new phones would be part of the contract. To install the system, Twin Valley will work with our current internet providers to make the transition as smooth as possible. The courthouse would use its current phone numbers.

Commissioner Garman requested that the decision be tabled until all commissioners could review the proposal.

Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented for review:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The grading and repairing of 30 Rd should be completed this week.
- The county has assisted the fair board with projects to get the fairground ready for the annual fair.
- Robbins has been meeting with the cities of the county regarding necessary cold mix to assist with repairs.

- Robbins presented 4 solid waste agreements for signatures.
 - Belleville
 - Munden
 - Scandia
 - Republic

- Robbins reminded everyone that the Solid Waste Delinquent tax hearings will be held in August.
 - Residential accounts on August 8
 - Landowner accounts on August 22
- Robbins presented for signature a utility agreement with JBN to install a line under a road.

Faye Jones, the new Health Administrator, updated the commissioners of progress in the Health Department.

- August 1, was Jones' first full-time day.
- An immunization RN and an office bookkeeper/biller have been hired and will start on August 8.
 - Melissa Miller at a wage of \$27.50 per hr.
 - Lori Benyshek at a wage of \$14.25 per hour.
- Jones is not going to hire any other personnel until she analyzes what is really needed.
- She has contacted the clinic for a nurse or PA that would be willing to assist with family planning.
- Jones plans for the immunizations to begin by the end of August when supplies have been received.
- Jones presented contracts for health services with the USD 426 School and Headstart program.
- Jones has contacted the state on recertification of Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- Jones will prepare a wage scale for commissioners by reviewing other department scales, state and local wages for positions comparable to her department.

Permission was granted for the Belleville Mainstreet to use the courthouse lawn for the annual Poker Walk. Commissioner Garman made the motion to approve the use. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion was made unanimous by Commissioner Jear DOE.

Commissioner Garman explained that paperwork was received from the hospital to complete the approval and receive the grant money from the USDA and it needs a signature. Consensus was granted for Garman to sign the paperwork.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signature a general service agreement with Central Office supply for the general shredder in the courthouse starting August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Jear DOE. Motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Russell emailed an application for Paint the County project for Tom Clark. Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion that was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Clerk Marsicek presented information from KCAMP regarding appointed personnel working for the county at the fairgrounds or appointed to other positions. KCAMP informed the county that these persons would be covered by county insurance should an incident arise.

Clerk Marsicek announced that all the county buildings have been reassessed by KCAMP for the insurance contract for 2023.

Susan Aaron announced the next LEPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Courthouse.

Aaron also present permissions to travel to four trainings as follow:

- Raymond Raney and Susan to attend the annual KEMA training at Mulvane, KS from September 12 to 16.
- Raney to attend Flood Plain training at Lawrence, KS from August 30 to September 2.
- Raney and Colleen Alkire to attend the annual training for APCO at Wichita, KS from September 18 to September 21.

- Aaron to attend G0300 Intermediate Incident Command System Course in Salina, KS from August 22 to August 25.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented quotes to replace the lights in the ambulance bay.

- Hoods \$4,132.00
- Peterson Electric \$3,431.50
- Tyson \$9,036.10

Motion was tabled to verify types of led lights to be installed.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Preparedness Director/ARPA, presented quotes for a generator for the courthouse.

Information was tabled.

Raney also reminded the commissioners that the lease for the tower on the Dusek land will expire in October 2022 and a new contract needs to be prepared.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to ballot canvassing, the next meeting will be on Monday, August 8, 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member