

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman and Edwin Splichal. Melvin Jeardoe was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting. Others attending were Joanne Filing, Tommy Kokko, Adam Richardson and Alan Anderson.

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 of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the October 31, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$206,727.30.

Sheriff David Cox presented the following information.

- Quotes for 2 new computers with special software for Sheriff's office.
 - Lock-it \$3778.98
 - HP \$5088.50

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the quote from Lock-It. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Cox presented his request for wage increases and stated that he is working on the employee evaluations.
- He requested permission to use the 2023 Public Safety fund for a new vehicle that was requested during 2022.

Commissioner Garman suggested that in the 2024 budget that Cox include a budget amount for a vehicle a year instead of using the Public Safety funds.

Faye Jones, Health Department Administrator, updated the commissioners with information from her department.

- Jones announced that the Health Department received a grant from the Republic County Foundation in the amount of \$8,221.19 to purchase a portable screening machine and a portable cooler.
- Jones requested permission to research a quote for a storage shed to store equipment currently stored in the health department.
- Jones asked permission to contract an outside nurse to assist with foot care temporarily. Permission was granted.
- The application for Part a Medicare has been submitted.
- Immunizations are increasing weekly. There were 70 people that attended the walk-in clinic last Wednesday.
- Jones presented her request for wage increases for 2023.
- The hours for Friday are still closing at noon. The afternoon is used for paperwork.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, reported that she is interviewing candidates for the open position in the Deeds office.

Swanson reported that all the scanning of the old records has been completed. Now the job of back indexing and formatting is left to complete the digital access.

Swanson shared that her department has made great strides in the past few years to protect the historical information held in the office and they continue to work toward making it more accessible to the public through their online search software.

Nathan Craig, Munden/Narka Rural Fire Departments, presented a suggestion on distributing the HiBanks Windfarm contribution to the fire districts within the footprint of the project.

Ken Robbins presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge and turbine information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Cold patching on the Munden road will be discontinued after midweek.
- The county will be assisting with patching and overlay on K St near the county shop.
- Kirkham Michael began work on Monday, November 7 and will be supervising work on the right of way on the county roads.
- Robbins presented HiBanks haul routes and suggested road improvement and suggested that this information be added to website.
- The Commencement of construction (COC) has been received.
- Kokko presented to Commissioner Garman and Commissioner Splichal three checks
 - Contribution \$932,210.86
 - Donation to Rural Fire Districts \$100,000.00
 - Donation to Emergency Services \$150,000.00
- Adam Richardson stated that the application for ADLS tower lights were approved and suggested that the approved tower locations be posted on the website.
- Robbins announced the hiring of a PT bus driver. Bill Bowen at a wage of \$14.45 per hour.
- Robbins asked that since Veteran's Day is on Friday, which day should the road and bridge employees have off since they do not work on Friday.

Commissioner Garman requested a day that would work better for his department and Robbins stated that Thursday would be his choice.

Permission was requested for Susan Aaron to travel to Wichita from November 14 to November 18 for Emergency Preparedness KS-133 KS Exercise Design for Operations based exercises.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the travel request. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

County Attorney, Justin Ferrell, joined the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney-Client to discuss updates on possible litigation. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed. Attending the session were the commissioners, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:40 a.m., no action taken.

Rob Kasl, Eagle Project, explained that the eagle statue still needs a place to be installed and stone base. Kasl will display the statue during the Veteran's Day activities. Kasl stated that 5 of the flag poles are missing and if anyone knows where they are to contact him.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director and Assistant, reported that the number of transfers in 2022 is already 85. The department has not been able to take 5 transfers due to staffing. Whitley requested permission to hire a Full-time employee to reduce the number of overtime hours of the current staff. Permission was granted.

Beikmann asked if the department could pursue bids to purchase a new ambulance. The lead time is 24 months so the sooner the order is placed, the sooner the lead time starts.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. to canvass ballots from the 2022 General Election at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member