

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 20, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jear DOE and Edwin Splichal. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was 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 in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to approve the June 13, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff David Cox reported an altercation happened when a deputy went to follow up on a report of someone walking on Hwy K148 on Friday, June 17. The person was detained and the deputy only received minor injuries. Cox also asked if the commissioners had decided on the increase of wages for the jailers. Commissioner Garman stated that he would like to review the information more and will contact Sheriff Cox next week.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development secretary, presented loan release forms of collateral and life insurance for Wood Sanctuary Coffee Shop since the owners have paid off their obligation to Republic County.

At 8:53 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 7 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding candidate application. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Cox and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., taking no action.

Attending the Public Forum time were Brenda Danielson, Robert Lahodny and Joanne Filinger.

- Filinger asked if the commissioners had made any decisions on the agreements proposed and explained a conversation she had with a representative of NextEra regarding reimbursement for damages to a field when NextEra drove through it. She was told that NextEra deals with the land owner only not a renter of the land.
- Danielson commented that several persons from Marshall County are still awaiting reimbursement for crop damage done when the towers were installed in that county. Danielson also presented two articles stating that "Green Energy" does not really save money but is 4-6 times more expensive and the other was a Harvard study that found wind turbines will cause more global warming.
- Lahodny shared that he knows in his contract that NextEra has agreed to reimburse any crop damage during the installation of the turbines.
- Deb Hadachek explained that all three commissioners come from various backgrounds and special knowledge and have spent many hours researching on their own time before negotiating and reviewing the proposed agreements. She knows they will be looking out for the best interests of the citizens of Republic County.

Commissioner Garman stated that the commissioners' job is to protect the Republic County residents and create an offer that is best for all concerned.

Kimberlee Springer and Tony Miller, NCK CASA, presented the annual CASA report of services that included assisting 69 reports of abuse or neglect in Republic County and that 36 new children entered the District Court jurisdiction during 2021. Springer emphasized the need for child advocates in Republic County. CASA is requesting \$10,000 in contributions from Republic County for 2023.

Travis Boyer, representing the Republic County taskforce, announced that since no bids were received for the employee appreciation meal for June 27, Beth Ball and Karla Brzon have agreed to prepare the food if the county would purchase the supplies. The commissioners granted permission for those two to purchase what is needed to prepare the meal.

At 9:47 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 8 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding HR issue. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Boyer and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:55 a.m., taking no action.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding HR issue. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Boyer and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:00 a.m., taking no action.

Ken Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste Director presented the weekly report of concerns and department activities.

- The road crews will start working on 30 Rd next week.
- Robbins presented an agreement to be signed between Republic County and Next-Tech to construct and operate an underground fiber optic cable along 10 Rd just south of Lincoln Rd to 1475 10 Rd.
- Robbins presented a 6-year Capital purchase plan for equipment for approval.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the 6-year capital purchase plan. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Robbins presented for approval a purchase policy resolution, Resolution No. 2022-18, to replace Resolution No. 2014-23 from December 29, 2014. The changes included the addition of 2 lines on the last page under Non-competitive negotiations.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-18. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health, presented annual report of activities for Pawnee Mental Health. Cole also respectfully requests that Republic County consider increasing its budget for mental health by 3% or \$1,448 equaling \$37,657 for 2023.

At 11:08 a.m., the board joined a conference call with the three Cloud County Commissioners and Clerk to discuss the applicants for appraiser.

At 11:10 Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel pertaining to applicants for Appraiser. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the three Commissioners from Cloud County, three Commissioners from Republic county, Barry Porter, Clerk Shella Thoman and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:30 a.m., Clerk Marsicek will contact the proposed candidate with an offer pending pre-employment testing and acceptance of the position.

Clerk Marsicek presented a letter of permission to allow Retha Blecha and Patrick Comstock to dispose of election ballots that have exceeded the 22 months of retention per K.S.A. 25-2708.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the request to dispose of the ballots that exceed the 22-month holding time. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting.

Commissioner Garman asked for clarification of an Open records request received in the Clerk's office regarding releasing copies of all the agreements that have been presented to NextEra from Republic County. The documents are not finalized and therefore are not open records. Ferrell explained that for the exemption of K.S.A. 45-221(a)(20) the records are not public yet.

At 11:50 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding HR issue. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 12:00 p.m. taking no action.

At 12:05 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding applicants for Health Department Director. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, search committee and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 12:20 a.m. taking no action.

At 12:20 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding applicants for Health Department Director. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, search committee and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 12:30 p.m. Clerk Marsicek will schedule interviews.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Chairman Splichal seconded to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 27, 2022, beginning at 8:30am at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member