

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jear DOE, 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.

Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, Beloit United Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the May 2, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$138,599.21.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- A quote for overlay on Narka road was extremely high because of price increases in supplies. Robbins is checking if we have supplies for a partial overlay and finish when supplies are available with more reasonable prices.
- A quote for cold mix is up to \$98.00 per ton.
- The new fuel pump at the fuel center is installed and working well. Robbins plans to request funding for a new pump each year until all have been replaced.
- Countywide clean up is progressing with only one town not participating.
- The funding for gravel is at an average status for this time of year.
- The rework on Oak road is holding up nicely.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, updated the commissioners with information from the EMS Department.

- Republic County received grant funds to purchase the Luke's device for the ambulances.
- The new IPADS are installed and running well.
- Ambulance #2 needs repair work on the floor and is scheduled for May 17 in Linn, MO.

Permission to travel was granted for Jeff Beikmann to take Ambulance #2 to Linn, MO to get needed repair work on the bed of the ambulance.

- Whitley announced that May 15-19 is National EMS week.
- Whitley asked permission to use the Paramedic Training funds in the County General budget for Paris Yungeberg to attend paramedic training in Great Bend. Permission was granted.
- Ty Sothers has applied to the Paramedic Training starting in August 2022 and ending December 2023.
- Beikmann presented a CPR training to the Belleville fire departments.

Raymond Raney, Communications Director, presented the wage scale for his department effective 2023 and suggested a starting wage of \$16.00 per hour for dispatchers compared to surrounding counties.

Raney reported that two persons have interviewed for the open dispatcher positions and Raney would like to offer them the positions but needs to know what starting wage the commissioners will approve.

Jeremy LaFaver from Energy.Com, Tommy Koko and Allen Anderson from NextEra, Nick Reynolds, Mike Kolman, Layne Holmes, Ashton Holmes, Lane Shoemaker, Kurt Child and Steve Scofield joined the meeting during public forum.

Kolman asked if the commissioners had received the email from the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group.

Each commissioner responded that they received the email, however, they have not had a chance to discuss the contents with the other commissioners until they met in session. Kolman explained that a petition is going around to request a moratorium to the wind farm project to ensure ample time for the commissioners and all the citizens of the county to be adequately presented and informed of this Wind Industrial Development in its entirety for our county, with full transparency; nothing should be hidden.

Commissioner Garman reminded everyone that NO contracts or agreements have been signed regarding the Windfarm project. The commissioners are committed to make sure Republic County's best interests are top priority.

Kolman requested that the commissioners review all parts of the project -contributions, construction, transmission and the future of Republic County not just the financial part.

Holmes explained that he attended many meetings years ago when windfarms were being proposed and that project did not proceed due to concerned citizens. Holmes stressed that the windfarm not only affects the eastern part of the county but the county as a whole. Please research what will happen if the project is bought out in the years to come regarding decommissioning and the landowner rights. He stated that the biggest asset the county has is the citizens not the windfarm.

Scofield requested that a special bond contract for the decommissioning be in any agreements for this project to protect the landowners and Republic County.

Anderson, lawyer for NextEra, announced that NextEra has been in business for over 20 years. He and Koko are willing to answer any questions that people have regarding this project. NextEra has an office in the Kallman Office Suites on Mainstreet. The office hours are Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 3 pm.

Mike Hadachek, Republic County Development (RCD) officer, presented an application for loan approval for Domonik and Clark Siemsen to purchase North Side, LLC. The RCD met on May 4, 2022 to review requirements before presenting to the commissioners today.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the loan application for North Side, LLC. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Trish Voth, Foulston Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Attorney-client issues relating to the proposed windfarm project agreements. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the Board, Robbins and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 10:50 a.m. taking no action.

At 10:50 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney-client issues relating to the proposed windfarm project agreements. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the Board, Robbins and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m. taking no action.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 1 hour to discuss Attorney-client issues relating to the proposed windfarm project agreements. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the Board, and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 12:05 p.m. taking no action.

At 12:15 p.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 1 hour to discuss Attorney-client issues relating to the proposed windfarm project agreements. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Board, and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 1:15 p.m. taking no action.

At 1:15 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney-client issues relating to the proposed windfarm project agreements. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Board, and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 1:25 p.m. requesting Trish return on May 23 at 10:00 a.m. to present revisions.

Due to the auditors needing space to audit the county 2021 financials and other documentation, the meeting on Monday, May 16 will conclude at 10:30 a.m.

Raney returned to the meeting to answer questions regarding 911 addresses for the turbine if the project proceeds. Raney will contact Tommy Koko for exact locations.

Raney requested an answer on the suggestion of starting wage for dispatchers and if the commissioners have approved his pay scale.

Commissioner Garman made a motion for the starting wage of a dispatcher be set at \$16.00 per hour but further review of the proposed pay scale will be discussed later. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek reminded the commissioners that they need to meet with the Cloud County Commissioners to review applications for the joint Appraiser position and set up interviews. Clerk Marsicek will make copies of each application for the commissioners to review before next weeks meeting. Commissioner Garman suggested that Barry Porter be giving a copy of the application to review.

Since no formal resignation was received from Danielle Swanson last week, Clerk Marsicek was instructed to contact Swanson for her final decision. If she is not returning, a classified ad for the Health Department Administrator will be placed in several publications next week.

At 2:25 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 16, 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