

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 4, 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 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the March 28, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, left for signatures a status change and wage increase for Ty Sothers who will be a full-time employee with a wage of \$13.00 and full benefits.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass requested permission for the Assembly of God to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the courthouse lawn on April 16 starting 10:00 am. Permission was approved.

Sheriff David Cox announced that the new vehicle delivery date is on hold. Cox also announced that one of the Tahoe's needs transmission work however the transmission is under warranty. Cox is still looking for jailers.

Cox reported that the weapons ordered in March of 2021 have been delivered and as soon as each officer has qualified at the range the weapons will be dispersed.

Permission to travel was granted for Sandee Swanson to attend the North Central Kansas Register of Deeds and Treasurers Spring District meeting in Marion County on Friday April, 8,2022.

Several concerned citizens including Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group joined the public forum and presentation: Idan Kauer, Annette Bredthauer, Terry Marcotte, Kurt Childs, Barbara Fisher, Carolyn Simms, Matt Dowell, Joanne Filinger and David Strnad.

Bredthauer presented a report from her visit to the Irish Creek wind turbine area on April 1, 2022 which included information that half of the turbines have already been sold to a Canadian Teachers Retirement Group and project just started in December 2021. She highly encouraged each commissioner to tour the Irish Creek project before making any final decisions. She also presented a recording of the noise of the turbines from a distance of ¼ mile.

Simms voiced concerns about the ability to spray crops planted near the turbines, land valuations, clusters of the turbines and requested better and more communication regarding the windfarm project in Republic County to residents of the county.

Fisher explained that the commissioners need to look at the equity for the citizens of Republic County and the economics where a few people have the control at the expense of everyone else. Fisher also encouraged the commissioner to take their time with making this important decision that could affect Republic County for the next 90 years.

Filinger brought up the issue of pressure from neighbors and family members that have already signed contracts with the High Banks Windfarm that could cause friction in their relationships in the future.

Strnad shared that he and his family are all aboard this windfarm for Republic County. He is looking out for the future of his family and their financial needs to possibly offset downfalls in crops in the future. If the county is going to build the towers why not be part of it. It is industry for the eastern part of Republic County.

Kauer also is in support of the windfarm project. He worked with electrical industry for years and with the new electric vehicles more and more electricity is going to be needed. There is some noise but people will get used to it just like people in the city get used to traffic and trains.

Matt Dowell the spokes person for the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group presented several topics for discussion including:

- Explaining the beginning of this new phase of contracts started with a select group of large acre landowners by invitation only with the NextEra representatives at a resident's home in the mist of COVID in 2020.
- The original goal was 22 towers to start the project but now it is up to over 200 towers.
- There are many landowners that are absentee meaning they don't even live in Republic County but own land.
- Small or medium size landowners are holding out and being pressured by others to sign up. This pressure is coming because we are a small community and everyone knows everyone.
- Dowell presented an article by Roger McEwen-Legal issue for landowners to consider.
- Where will this project stop? Will it continue to spread to western Republic County and then to Jewell County?
- What can be done to protect the health, wealth fair and wildlife of Republic County?
- Dowell presented a copy of the Resolution made in Neosho County after their towers were built to stop any further building. Other counties have implemented zoning after the fact.
- The commissioners need to dig into the breakdown of how much the landowners and Republic County will actually receive in payments to allow the turbines to be built.

Commissioner Garman explained to the group that the picture that was approved at the last meeting was not the same picture that was displayed in the courthouse and it has been removed. If the group reprints the picture and remove the additional photos and wording it may be displayed. Any pictures displayed must show a neutral position of the project for information only.

Dowell will contact Apple Media and reprint the picture.

Clerk Marsicek will contact Mike Kolman with an available time for the group to meet with commissioners on April 11.

All the commissioners have received phone calls from citizens that are for the wind farm project and against the windfarm project.

Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented and discussed with Commissioners the following:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.

- Presented a permission to travel to attend the 2022 North Central Kansas County Highway Officials Association meeting on April 6, 2022 at Ellsworth. Commissioner Jeardoe will be attending with Robbins. Permission was granted.
- Additional culverts have been received.

Commissioner Garman shared his thoughts and commended the excellent dispatching job of Colleen Alkire during the large and multiple fires in the county last week.

Susan Aaron joined the meeting to announce that on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m there will be a joint LEPC and Emergency Management Communications Tabletop Exercise in the Republic County hospital education room.

Aaron also presented for signatures 2 lease agreements for tower rental.

- Jerry Strnad
- Tony Strnad

Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Center requested a proclamation stating April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The commissioner agreed to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Month in Republic County.

At 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman – Chair

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Edwin Splichal – Member

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Melvin Jeardoe– Member