

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Melvin Jeardoe and Doug Garman. 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 of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$693,364.57.

Clerk Marsicek notified the commissioners that on May 2, the courthouse will have limited computer and phone services available due to upgrading the computer server. Since the services will be limited, do we want to close the courthouse to the public or publish a Public Service Announcement (PSA) of limited services so the public knows ahead of time when they come to the courthouse.

The commissioners did not want to close to the public so a PSA will be sent to the radio station.

Dawn Snyder, 12th Judicial District presented for signature the annual grant applications for the Adult and Juvenile services in the 6-county jurisdiction.

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

Mabel Woodman, concerned citizen, requested that Republic County pass a burn ban until sufficient moisture is received to remove the fire hazard of dry grass. Commissioner Splichal stated that the board has been researching the possibility of a burn ban issue however no final drafts have been reviewed. In the meantime, citizens that feel a need to have a controlled burn need to contact their local fire chief for permission and dispatch to notify of the burn.

Annette Bredthauer, concerned citizen, presented fiberglass shards from a windfarm blade incident at the Irish Creek windfarm near Frankfort. Bredthauer asked what plan of action will Republic County take if one of the blades in Republic County explodes and deposits shards into grasslands or farm ground. Who will take responsibility for animals that eat this and do not survive? Is there any provision for something like this in contracts with NextEra?

Commissioner Garman stated that situations like this will be a learning processes and until something like this happens, it can not be assessed but it would be recorded as any other concern regarding the windfarm project.

Permission to travel was granted for Faye Jones to attend the NCK Health Care Cooperative meeting in Salina on May 12 and to attend the NCK Public Health Initiative meeting in Beloit on May 10.

Sheriff David Cox reported that the safety buttons are functional with the digital system however the safety (panic) buttons are outdated and should be replaced. Cox is researching a new system.

Cox presented quotes for the 2024 purchase of new body cameras. The cost estimate is \$91,250 to \$110,932 and will be included in the budget request for his department in 2024.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

At 9:48 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 9:58 a.m., taking no action.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- A ½ tanker was installed on Granite Rd to fix a culvert issue.
- There has been public interest in baling the grass near the landfill so bids will be requested to cut and bale the grass.
- The citizen with the noxious weeds has been contacted and promises to deal with the issue within two weeks.
- Two people have been interviewed and are in the pre-employment screening process.

Commissioner Splichal informed Robbins about the concerns presented by Annette Bredthauer regarding the shards of the blade from a turbine in the Iris Creek project near Frankfort. Robbins will research the issue and report back to the commissioners.

The commissioners reviewed the quotes for a computer, server and sonic wall for the health department. Commissioners also reviewed the sonic wall quote for the courthouse.

Quote for the courthouse and Health Department for the sonic wall was from LockIT (who the county now contracts IT services).

For a 3 year contract the quote is \$4,259.90.

Quote for the server for Health Department:

LockIt (with installation and 5-year warranty & Microsoft licensing)	\$10,378.63
Amazon -PC Nation (we hire outside IT to install and order Microsoft licensing)	\$6,099.00

Quote for computer for Health Department:

LockIt- Lenovo ThinkCentre Desktop with monitor & battery backup installed	\$1,580.00
Amazon - Lenovo ThinkCentre Desktop with monitor & battery backup	
No installation included	\$1,209.88

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to order the two sonic walls, server and computer from LockIt. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Nathan Craig, R&B supervisor, reported that 5 vehicles were sold on the consignment sale on Saturday, April 22. Three of the vehicles were sold for scrap and 2 vehicles need title transfers signed.

At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners.

The board reconvened at 11:05 a.m., taking no action.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented 1st quarter funds on hand balance of \$10,981,165.64.

Ferrell rejoined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Republic County Commissioners called Cloud County Commissioners to hold a conference call starting at 11:30 a.m.

At 11:37 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners- Ron Copple, Gary Caspers and Mark Matthew, Rob Walsh-Cloud County Attorney, Justin Ferrell-Republic County Attorney and Shella Thoman -Cloud County Clerk.

The board reconvened at 11:52 a.m., taking no action .

Toby Marco joined the meeting via phone conference at 11:58 a.m.

At 12:00 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners- Ron Copple, Gary Caspers and Mark Matthew, Rob Walsh-Cloud County Attorney, Justin Ferrell-Republic County Attorney, Toby Marco, Shella Thoman-Cloud County Clerk and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 12:10 p.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to terminate Toby Marco as Republic County Appraiser effective today, April 24. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Ferrell presented a contract for temporary assistance from Real Estate Analytics consultant Anna Porter. Porter will consult with the Interim Appraiser and assist with the procedures and processes to collect, collate, and analyze real estate valuation in the county until otherwise terminated by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to hire Anna Porter to assist with protests until a fulltime appraiser can be hired. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 1, 2023 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member