

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 16, 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 Amos McCarthy, United Methodist Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, reported that she had contacted the Kansas Historical Society regarding grants for the front steps and announced that there is funding through the Heritage fund for repairs and updates to buildings on the National and State Historical Registry.

Sheriff David Cox presented updates in his department.

- There is a 2022 Chevy Tahoe available in Wichita and the trade-in value of the county vehicle will be \$12,000. It will take a few weeks to trade out equipment from the old vehicle and install in the new vehicle.
- The fundraiser for the new K-9 will be January 21 at the commercial build at the fair ground from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Currently there are 6 inmates in the county facility.

Tyler Garst, Community Building Solutions, introduced himself and his company. Community Building Solutions was started in 2018 in Shawnee, Kansas. Community Building Solutions uses a three-step approach to update current facilities, not new building projects.

- Cost effective
- Community Focused
- Creative solutions

Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Ken Robbins met with Republican Valley Feeders and Nesika regarding the request to upgrade 70 Road just south of US 36. Robbins will present his information next week to the commissioners.
- The Decommissioning Cost Analysis will be reviewed with the commissioners next week.
- Craig presented the updated map from Blanter regarding the windfarm project.
- Road closure for this week will be Jade between 220 and 230.

At 10:17 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 8 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig and Bowen.

The board reconvened at 10:25 a.m., taking no action.

Barry Childs, concerned citizen, presented a proposed plan of action for Republic County entitled REPUBLIC COUNTY EXPANSION PROJECT (RPEP).

- The RPEP states the major concern of Republic County is lack of housing for employees.
- Solution to assist with additional housing in Republic County.
- Possible solution: Funding for or to promote housing with a portion of the NextEra fund contributions to be received over the next 10 years.
 - Proposal #1 Do nothing.
 - Proposal #2 Republic County builds their own facilities to rent out or sell.
 - Proposal #3 Donate to Republic County Economic Development and they assist with the building of the housing.
 - Proposal #4 Republic County pay incentive money for completed dwellings. Someone would need to monitor all applications.
 - Proposal #5 Any combination of #2, #3 or #4.

Other considerations to increase growth and employees in Republic County;

- Scholarships for technical trade schools.
- Local funding for schools
- Towns in Republic County

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

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 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