

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 17, 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.

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from April 3 and April 10, 2023. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable voucher were approved in the amount of \$343,122.79.

Clerk Marsicek presented for action Resolution No. 2023-20 to rescind Jeff Beikmann as Assistant EMS Director and Resolution No. 2023-21 to appoint Amy Mullis-Havel as Assistant EMS Director effective May 1, 2023.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve both resolutions. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Deputy Eric Brunner reported on the incident in the courthouse on Thursday, April 13. Brunner explained that the county needs to upgrade their panic buttons in the courthouse because of the updates to digital to analog equipment in the sheriff's office.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager, presented for action a Declaration of a State of Local Disaster Emergency relating to the recent fires in Republic County.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the Declaration. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Raney also presented for signature a notification of withdrawal of request for public assistance from the COVID-19 Pandemic stating damage was below the project minimum amount.

Raney also asked permission to attend a 911 Coordinating Council PSAP Admin Day in Salina on May 8 & 9. Permission was granted.

Raney announced that he will be applying for grant for equipment upgrades through LSSE.

Adam Anderson, Belleville City Manager, asked for qualifications of who qualifies for the incentive program. The commissioners stated that anyone can apply as long as the funds are available and that any financing is done within Republic County. Anderson encouraged the commissioners to continue the program and other projects that encourage housing.

Arlene Clayton, county citizen, congratulated all the emergency personnel that worked to contain the recent fires.

Permission to use the Courthouse square for RCHS Art event on April 22 was granted.

Mike Nondorf, Weeds Director, reported that he will be contacting the landowner north of Scandia in regards to the noxious weeds agreement they signed last fall. The land needs to be sprayed or disked by the owner or the county will spray the weeds and invoice the landowner.

Raney returned to the meeting to present information regarding mics for the law enforcement. The quote was for \$2,120 but that did not include freight.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of the mics not to exceed \$2,500 and to cover the purchase with ARPA funds. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Raney suggested that Republic County close all offices to the public to hold an in-service training day this summer. Raney shared that there are trainings available that all employees need to attend and that can not be done when the departments are open. The commissioners are in support of setting up a training day. Raney will arrange the necessary schedule of subjects.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The road crew is working on the 2nd mile north of US 36 on 30 Rd.
- Concrete transporting and pouring has been authorized for early mornings for the turbine projects.
- Robbins presented a quote from Gasboy Fuel Dispensing for a new pump, the second of the three pumps needing replaced on rotation. The price was \$17,000. Permission to purchase was granted.
- There will be two employees out on medical leave at the end of April and asked permission to use banked sick leave if their leave extends beyond hours they have available. Permission was granted.

Quotes regarding the computer for the Health Department and sonic walls for Health Department and courthouse were reviewed. Additional information is needed before approving the sonic wall.

Justin Ferrell joined the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

At 10:50 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Ferrell. Commissioner Splichal requested 5 additional minutes.

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

A notice from Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK) stating that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month (SAAM) and please urge citizens in Republic County to observe this by passing the SAAM Proclamation. Commissioners of Republic County so ordered the proclamation.

Permission to travel was granted for Diane Reed to attend Safe Sleep Instructor Class in Wichita from May 17 to 19.

Permission granted for the Kansas Extension Office to use the sidewalk around the courthouse on May 19th from 1-5 p.m.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, announced that the EMS department did not receive the CRAFT grant for the new cot for the ambulance. The cot is already ordered and will be purchased out of ambulance equipment fund.

Whitley shared that the new response truck should be delivered this week.

Whitley inquired about gravel roads and the commissioners referred him to visit with Ken Robbins.

Ferrell and Retha Blecha joined the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

At 11:44 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter in executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job duties. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Ferrell and Blecha.

The board reconvened at 11:54 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to appoint Retha Blecha as Interim Appraiser per Resolution No. 2023-22. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 24, 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