

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Doug Garman, and Melvin Jeardoe. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope and Michael Holtz, a freelance writer observed most of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Splichal and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, United Presbyterian Church of Beloit, 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 August 14, 2023. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$228,639.31.

At 8:30 a.m. Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting via Zoom.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 8:34 a.m. Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 20 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss issues regarding the Windfarm Project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session in person were the Commissioners, Robbins and Justin Ferrell, County Attorney and via Zoom, Attorney Voth.

The Board reconvened at 8:54 a.m., taking no action.

At 8:55 a.m. Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 3 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss issues regarding privileged information. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session in person were the Commissioners and Ferrell.

The Board reconvened at 8:58 a.m., taking no action.

Deb Hadachek invited the commissioners to the Republic County Hospital board meeting next Monday.

Faye Jones, Health Director, reported sewer backup damage at the Health department on Thursday August 17. A claim has been filed with KCAMP. Jones presented for signature the contract between Republic county Health Department and USD 426 to offer school health nursing service for school year 2023-2024.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the contract with USD 426. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Kelvin Blecha, NCK Fair board president, reported that the floorcovering vendor should be coming within the next couple of weeks to apply the samples of floor coating for the commissioner to evaluate. The new air conditioning and HVAC should be installed in late September or early October.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 114 fully erected turbines.
- Robbins presented for signatures the solid waste agreement with the City of Agenda.
- Robbins presented for signatures the agreement with KDOT for the replacement bridge X-27.2.
- Robbins is working on the proposal for the new GIS reporting system to present at a later meeting.
- Republic County was successful in purchasing the Zoom Broom for \$19,855.
- Road and bridge department has only one employee short of being fully staffed.

Retha Blecha, Interim Appraiser, joined the meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., the Commissioners contacted the Cloud County Commissioners via phone conference.

At 10:04 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes to discuss the position of appraiser. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Blecha, Cloud County Commissioners, Cloud County Clerk-Shella Thoman, Cloud County Interim Appraiser- Shea McMillian and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:14 a.m., taking no action.

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes to discuss the position of appraiser. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager, presented an updated quote to install the generator at the courthouse. An additional transfer switch needed to be installed.

Commissioner Gaman made a motion to approve the new quote excluding the \$1501.00 additional labor that could be negotiated. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Sheriff David Cox notified the commissioners that the installation charges were not on the bid for the new body/vehicle cameras and the cost will be \$499 per vehicle.

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

Arlene Clayton and Travis Boyer joined the meeting.

Clayton informed the commissioners that Blattner and Quanta Services are one business.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes regarding employee performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Boyer and Clerk Marsicek.

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

Susan Aaron, administrative assistant for Solid Waste and Emergency Management, presented for signature a grant application for KEMA.

At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss Confidential data for 5 minutes about financial affairs. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 3 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:03 a.m., taking no action.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Splichal called the hearing of delinquent solid waste landlords to order seconded by Commissioner Garman. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Aaron presented the list of seven names of the 2023 Delinquent Solid Waste Landlords.

With no citizens present to protest the list, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to close the solid waste hearing at 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

The Republic county Housing committee of Mike Hadachek, Justin Trost, Lane Holmes, Waylon Sheetz, Jennifer Russell, Keith Anderson, Tyler Ottensmeier, and Tanner Johnson requested an update from the commissioners about additional funds for the Housing Incentive program.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to allocate an additional \$200,000 from non-allocated money market funds to be used as incentive funds. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Russell reported that she will apply for matching funds from grants.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to allow the Republic County Task force to plan the employee appreciation meal which ever works best for the task force. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Permission to travel was granted Melissa Miller to attend the Hearing and screening course in Lawrence on August 24 and 25.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, visited with the commissioners regarding the additional \$200,000 that needs to be transferred to the Republic County Housing Project.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 28, 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