

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 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 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer and a moment of silence in honor of 911.

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 September 5, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable were approved in the amount of \$315,506.67.

Permission to travel was granted for the following:

- Clerk Marsicek to attend PVD training in Salina on September 15.
- Clerk Marsicek and Travis Boyer to attend the NCKCCA Fall meeting in Beloit on September 21.
- Melissa Miller to attend the Level II Hearing training in Lawrence from September 20 to 22.
- Melissa Miller to attend the Vision Screening Training in Hays on October 11.

Kay Shoemaker, RCD secretary/treasurer, presented for signature 3 COVID stimulus loans that have been completed.

- Town & Country Service
- TAG's Grill & Bar
- Sheets Enterprise DBA Dairy Queen

Shoemaker asked permission to change the wording on the criteria sheets for loans. The consensus of the commissioners was to update the wording from DUNS to UEI (Unique Entity Identifier).

Shoemaker announced that there will not be an RCD meeting in September.

Retha Blecha, Interim Appraiser, joined the meeting in person and Anna Porter joined the meeting via phone conference.

At 8:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes regarding applications for appraiser. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha, Porter and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:15 a.m., taking no action.

At 9:20 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter into non-elected personnel for 5 minutes to discuss job performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners.

The board reconvened at 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to increase the wages of Retha Blecha and Korin Huncovsky by \$1.00 per hour for the additional duties they have since no permanent Appraiser has been hired. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

David Blecha-local realtor and Samantha Alexander-grant writer joined the meeting to discuss the grant application for funds for the front courthouse steps. Alexander explained there is a new grant “Rural Historic Grant”, and the courthouse and steps qualify. Alexander requested a copy of the quotes that have been received in order to fill out the grant.

Local businessman, David Blecha, reported that there are grants available for historic buildings and he has volunteered to write the grant to assist with the front step repairs if the commissioners give him permission. Permission was granted.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 150 fully erected turbines.
- Cold mix asphalt patching material was delivered to Courtland, Scandia, Cuba and Republic. The county will assist with patching in the Courtland and Scandia areas.
- Permission to travel was granted for Becky Craig, Stacey Bowen and Bill Bowen to attend Bud Driving Certification classes on September 27 and 28.
- Three permanent easement agreements were presented for signatures near the X-27.2 county bridge.
 - Double Bar A Farms, LLC
 - Gerald I & Grace A Thompson
 - Brian L & Tammy L Thompson
- Robbins presented for signature the Solid Waste Agreement between Republic County and the City of Republic.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked Robbins to watch for a low mileage truck on the state surplus listings for the Appraiser’s department.

Clerk Marsicek presented the invoice from Hood Plumbing and Air regarding the new wheelchair lift and what fund will the payment be made. The consensus of the board is to use the county building fund.

Travis Boyer, Deputy Clerk, announced that Republic County will be receiving refunds left in the account from the prior Flex Spending Account and Health Saving Account vendor.

Boyer stated that the task force has scheduled the employee appreciation meal for the courthouse and Health Department on October 6. It will be held at the 4-H building.

David Blecha rejoined the meeting.

At 10:43 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter into an executive for the purpose of land acquisition exception for 10 minutes to discuss acquisition of real property. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:53 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion for Republic County to enter into an agreement with David Blecha at Blecha Realty to purchase a local building. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion for Republic County to purchase the property located at 2003 E Frontage Rd from Steve Anderson for \$250,000 contingent on an inspection.

Jenny Russell, RCED, reported that Republic County Economic Development was awarded a \$200,000 grant to assist with the incentive housing program.

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek met Steve Anderson to tour the old armory.

With all agenda items and tour completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, September 18, 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