

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 6, 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 Kevin Weston, Zion Evangelical Church in Munden, 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 January 30th. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Joonas, Superintendent of USD 426 Pike Valley schools, presented a list of ways to use any funds that Republic County could donate to USD 426 from the windfarm funds. Joonas inquired whether the donation would be a onetime giving or on a continuous basis.

Commissioner Garman stated that it would be a onetime donation.

Susan Aaron left a message that there would be a LEPC meeting on Tuesday, February 21st at noon to be held at the Republic County Hospital Boardroom.

Sheriff David Cox and Deputy Jeff Smith reported that the goal of the fundraiser has been met to purchase the next search and rescue K-9. If someone still wants to donate, the funds will help with food and vet expenses.

Cox reminded the board that he had requested permission to use the public safety funds to purchase the new K-9 and now that the fundraiser has enough funds for that purchase, Cox would like to pursue the purchase of Drone for Republic County.

Deputy Smith has researched the different types and services for drones and presented 3 quotes that meet the specifications the county is wanting. Smith also stated that he is certified to fly a drone during the day and at night. A drone would aid in search and rescue within the county. Smith sited two cases where the drone would have decreased the search time in the past year. The drone could be used to locate accidents and assess storm damage.

- Quote A - Titledown Drones LLC DJI Matrice 30T, \$15,473.00. No searchlight with speakers but two replacements in the first year.
- Quote B – Titledown Drones LLC DJI Matrice 30T, \$16,174.00. No searchlight with speakers but with unlimited repairs for the first year.
- A searchlight and speaker system for Quote A and B \$2,349.00.
- Quote C – Unmanned Vehicle Tech (UVT) DJI Matrice 30T, \$18,489.97. Includes searchlight with speakers, carrying case, extra batteries and propeller pairs, basic insurance and unlimited Proline support.
- The maximum range of all three is 16,000' high and 4.3 miles in distance.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Quote C from UVT. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Patrick Comstock presented a quote to replace the wheelchair lift near the back door. Comstock requested other bids but only Hood Heating, Air, Plumbing and Electric submitted a bid. The bid was \$28,070.00. Comstock explained that the current lift is old and has been fixed many times.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the bid from Hood. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Clerk Marsicek explained that her computer has issues and tech support suggested that it be replaced. Marsicek presented two quotes.

- Lock-It \$1,277.08
- Nex-Tech \$1,299.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the quote from Lock-It. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Kelvin Blecha and Conrad Trost, NCK Free Fair, presented quotes for a HVAC system for the commercial hall at the fairgrounds.

The Commissioners tabled the request until further details are listed on the quotes.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Three graders are in the shop for servicing but should be back in operation by the end of the week.
- Road crews are assisting with locating the cornerstones of intersections in the eastern part of the county.
- Robbins will contact Trish Voth, Windfarm attorney, to review the updates to the decommissioning cost analysis agreement and other wind turbine issues.
- Robbins suggested that the county develop an employee referral bonus program for recruiting employees or a work-study/scholarship program. Robbins will research what other counties have done.
- Robbins presented for signatures Solid Waste agreements between Republic County and the cities of Munden and Scandia.

The Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas asked Republic to proclaim February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to proclaim February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioner Jeardoe announced that he attended the monthly meeting of Pawnee Mental meeting last week,

Commissioner Splichal made a motion that the BOCC not meet the week of February 20th. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signature the tower lease agreement for 5 years between Republic County and Eric Dusek that was prepared by County Attorney Justin Ferrell.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the tower lease agreement. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to give a one-time donation to USD 426 and USD 109 from the windfarm contributions of \$100,000.00. The only stipulation is the money cannot be used for athletic programs. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, presented for signature an agreement between Republic County and the Fair Amusement Board of North Central Free Fair regarding EMS services during the racing season.

Beikmann presented quotes for a new ambulance. The lead time for an ambulance is approximately 2+ years so the sooner it is approved the sooner it can be put on the list to be built. After reviewing the quotes, the commissioners had additional questions regarding the warranty and requested those answers before a decision will be approved.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:45 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 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