

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 14, 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.

Pastor Amos McCarthy, United Methodist Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal 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 7, 2023. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on August 10, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arlene Clayton, a local citizen, started to visit the board about the water well issue but was informed that this matter will be discussed with the people involved at the scheduled time in this meeting. Clayton reported that the farmers market last Saturday went well.

Samantha Alexander, Belleville Chamber, presented for signature an application for signage approval with the State of Kansas. The approval from the local governing board is required to install permanent signs.

Wayne Pachta and Westin Pachta, Allen Anderson and Adam Richardson from NextEra, and Phillip Murrow, NCKLEPG sanitarian joined the meeting to discuss a water well.

Murrow presented a notice of violation from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sent to Wess Presley, Wayne Pachta, Phillip Murrow, and Kelly Stewart.

Commissioner Garman explained that he had contacted the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources in Stockton, Kansas and talked to Kelly Stewart and others in that office about the permits needed to drill a water well. Garman was informed that a permit was not required for drilling a well for domestic or livestock purposes unless it is for a large confinement or commercial purpose. Garman also requested information regarding the solution of the issue regarding the well that was drilled without a permit and what needs to be done so the landowner can use the well.

Commissioner Garman was instructed that an application and a check to cover the original permit fee can be given to the local sanitarian and the issue is to be closed. Pachta presented the application and permit fee to Commissioner Garman and Garman hand delivered it to Murrow.

Phillip suggested that the county post a notice on their website to inform citizens of the procedures when digging a well or lagoon.

Mike Hadachek, Keith Anderson, Waylon Sheetz, and Barry Childs from the Republic County Housing group announced that the final \$25,000 has been allocated and asked if there was a possibility of any additional incentive

money becoming available for use. There have been many inquiries about development within Republic County and if incentive money was available, it could be distributed.

Commissioners commended the housing group for the support and work they have done with this program.

The commissioners will discuss this request and report back to the Housing group.

Kelvin Blecha, North Central Kansas Fair Board, joined the meeting.

At 9:32 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into an executive session under the land acquisition exemption for 5 minutes to discuss possibilities of expansion. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:37 a.m., taking no action.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 106 fully erected turbines.
- Work is starting on 70 Rd this week
- Robbins is bidding on the laydown machine via Gavel Roads online auctions. The auction ends on August 15.
- Robbins presented for signatures a line agreement between Republic County and Rural Water District #1 to install an underground pipe under Queen Rd east of 40 Rd.

At 10:00 a.m., the Commissioners, Susan Aaron, Deb Hadachek, Michael Holtz, and Clerk Marsicek loaded the county transportation bus to meet with representatives from NextEra and Blanter Construction to tour the High Banks windfarm project. Ken Robbins drove his own vehicle.

Five turbine sites were visited including 2 in Washington County that were in the first stages of ground prep and concrete poured. The next site was the transfer station located south of Cuba. Then to a site that was preparing to be assembled. The last site was a completed turbine.

Robbins and Garman left the tour at noon.

The bus returned to the courthouse at 1:24 p.m.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 21, 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