

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 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.

Commissioners Jeardoe and Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

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 May 15, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he read that Commissioner Mark Matthew from Cloud County has resigned.

Clerk Marsicek presented the 2024 budgets for County Clerk's Office, Election, Custodian and Noxious Weeds. Marsicek explained the increases for the custodian and weeds budgets were in wages and cost of supplies. The increases in the clerk's and election budgets are related to the additional Presidential Primary election in March of 2024, wages and increase in the cost of supplies.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, presented updates regarding the Deeds office.

- Swanson thanked the commissioners for allowing the balance of the historical record books to be scanned through the use of the ARPA funds.
- Swanson presented the 2024 Register of Deeds budget request noting the increase in wages and contractual services to include a new copier lease, new Fidlar contract and LockIt services.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented a drawing of a proposed building at the vacant lot west of the Health Department that could be used as a sample for sourcing bids if a building is approved by the commissioners. Further action was tabled.

The Republic County Economic Development requested a letter of support for a grant application. Commissioner Garman made a motion to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the 2022 Republic County audit has been completed and presented a suggestion from the auditor regarding possible transfers of unencumbered funds from the 2022 budget year to the 2023 budget year. No action was taken on the suggestions until each department head has reviewed the suggestions.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented her proposed 2024 budget request. Coons also stated there are 14 parcels on the tax sale this year.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the 12th Judicial Juvenile meeting in Junction City on May 17th.

Commissioner Jeardoe announced that he will be attending the Pawnee Mental Health meeting on May 23 in Clay Center.

Adam Anderson, Belleville City Manager, presented his quarterly report to the board.

- Anderson thanked the board for agreeing to the housing incentive program.
- Anderson asked if the tax sale was on schedule and he was informed that the County Attorney, Justin Ferrell, is working on it.
- Anderson announced that the water treatment project has started.
- The City of Belleville is researching to purchase additional engines for the power plant.
- The Belleville swimming pool will open May 27.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Two new employees have started.
 - Steven Swiercinsky with an hourly wage of \$15.39.
 - Harry Morrison III with an hourly wage of \$15.39.
- The concrete pad for the courthouse generator has been poured.
- Robbins announced the approved bid for the grass hay crop went to Shawn Herring. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the bid. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.
- The transportation bus will not be running May 26 to May 29.
- Republic County Employee, Rayford Franklin, passed away and several of the road and bridge department will be attending his service on Friday, May 26 in Woodson, Kansas.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked if the road crew side trimmed cedar trees. Robbins shared that it is not the practice of the county because of presentation of the trees after trimming the trees. If a landowner specifically discusses the project ahead of time some type of arrangements could be possible.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, presented the 2024 proposed budget for his department. Ferrell explained that the increase requests are in personnel services and contractual services.

Ferrell presented a second-place plaque to Republic County as a result of low loss ratio through Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management, Communications and 911 Director, presented the 2024 budgets requests for these areas along with a suggestion to increase the Tower expense line to \$11,700.

Raney distributed an updated spreadsheet of the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Retha Blecha, Interim Appraiser, presented the 2024 Proposed budget for the Appraiser office.

Blecha reported that Anna Porter is here to assist Blecha to complete the 2023 checklist for certification.

At 11:40 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.

Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Blecha.

The board reconvened at 11:50 a.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the use of banked sick leave for a current employee. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

With all agenda items completed and to attend the Hospital Board meeting, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to Memorial Day on Monday, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 30, 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