

## **REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 20, 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 Westin, Zion Evangelical Church of Munden, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from March 13, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Nondorf, Weeds Director, presented for signatures his annual state report.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, shared comments from Senator Jerry Moran's weekly report.

Patrick Comstock, courthouse custodian, presented a quote from TK to update the electronics in the Otis elevator. This issue was tabled until additional information regarding new requirements from the State Fire Marshall are obtained.

Comstock also presented one bid for the service of the water system for the courthouse lawn.

Performance Irrigation	Total services: activation, summer checkup and winterization- \$475 plus parts
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Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept the bid from Performance Irrigation. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Jenny Russell, Republic County Economic Development, presented a request for funding in 2024. Russell stated it has been several years since they asked for an increase. Russell requested an increase from \$35,000 to \$96,286. The commissioners will review this request when preparing the 2024 budget.

Russell announced that the RCED received a grant of \$60,000 from NWK Innovation Center to assist businesses to fill hard to hire positions.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced someone has applied for a position after he graduates in May.
- The wheelchair lift in a transportation bus is not working but parts have been ordered.
- The complete rehaul of the grader should be completed in a couple of weeks.
- Crews have been removing trees on Queen Rd near 120 Rd.
- Robbins presented Resolution No. 2023-18, Employee Referral Bonus Program, to action by the commissioners.
  - The resolution will allow current employees to receive a \$500 bonus if they refer a new employee and that the new employee works past six months.
  - Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-18. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Mike Hadachek, Barry Childs, Justin Trost, Layne Hoops, Tanner Johnson and Keith Anderson from The Republic County Housing Board presented an updated version of the Republic County New Housing Program for approval.

- The commissioners need to verify with an accounting firm if the funds used can be tax exempt to the applicants.
- The time frame would be a calendar year for application until the funding is committed. Approval would be first come first approved.

- A letter of guarantee of funds from the commissioners could be provided if applicants apply late in the year and the project can not be completed in the calendar year.
- An extension request could be an option if necessary.
- The Housing group will provide quarterly reports to the commissioners.
- The goal of this program is to promote housing in Republic County.

Trish Voth and Madison Moore, Attorney at Law from Foulston Siefkin LLP joined the meeting via Zoom.

At 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for Attorney/Client privilege for 30 minutes to discuss County Designee responsibilities. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Voth, Moore, Robbins and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

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

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the NCK Juvenile Detention board meeting in Washington, Kansas on March 15.

Comstock returned to the meeting. Comstock will invite the State Fire Marshall or the representative from TK to attend the next meeting to explain the bid submitted and new requirements per state.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 27, 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

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Melvin Jeardoe, Member

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Doug Garman, Member