

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from December 12. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$595,213.63.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, asked permission to substitute a truck for the Tahoe that the commission approved. The vendor of the Tahoe does not have one available but they do have truck with the same equipment for emergency services.

The Commissioners granted permission to purchase the truck instead of the Tahoe at this time.

Clerk Marsicek presented a new contract for Trend Micro for the computers from Nex-Tech for action. It is a 3-year contract. The consensus of the board is to sign the contract.

Lewis Novak, Republic County Fire Chief, explained that he visited with the Rural Districts inside the windfarm footprint regarding the best solution to dividing the money allotted from Next-Era.

- One option is to divide it equally between the 5 districts.
- Second option is to divide it according to the number of towers in each district.
- Third option is to divide the \$100,000 in half. Then divide one half or \$50,000 by each district, giving each \$10,000 and divide the other half or \$50,000 by the number of towers in each district.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve option 3. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. The money will be provided after the first of the year to each Fire Department in the footprint of the project.

Commissioner Garman announced that the ADLS applications have been approved by the FAA. The release will be posted on the County's website.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signatures 3 contracts with Twin Valley Communication for the three departments not located in the courthouse to be connected on the new phone system.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Employees are winterizing equipment for the extreme temperatures this week.
- Robbins has received the final bridge inspection report and presented a copy to each commissioner,
- Robbins presented for signature the Interlocal Agreement with Cloud County for depositing and handling Republic County solid waste.

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

- Robbins shared a letter being sent to each Solid Waste Customer noting an increase of 3% for 2023 services.
- Robbins delivered holiday gifts to the commissioners from B&G Consultants.

Mike Hadachek presented for signature a pledge agreement on the new mortgage for the Republic County Hospital. This agreement replaces the original papers signed the spring 2022 and changing the payment plan to monthly.

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

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the requested wage requests from the department heads for their employees.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to give a 6% Cost of Living allotment (COLA) to employees except for department heads and Elected Officials. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management, joined the meeting.

At 10:50 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess to executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected employee wages and performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Raney. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:05 a.m., taking no action.

Raney presented a wage scale for Susan Aaron whose wages are paid from three departments. The three departments are Emergency Management, Solid Waste and County General. Raney suggested that her wages be set by this new wage scale now and in the future.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion for Susan's position to follow the new wage scale prepared by Raney. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Central Valley Ag. (CVA) represented by Curt Frasier, Wes O'Bannin, Jeff Holling, Brian Gates, Sara Moravek and Jenny Russell from RCD, made a presentation requesting that Republic County agree to an Industrial Revenue Bond to CVA. CVA will be building a Grain Shuttle Train Loader and Liquid Fertilizer Shuttle Train Receiving Facility northwest of Courtland. The proposed project estimated costs could be \$90,000,000 over the next 3 to 10 years in 4 phases. CVA will work through Gilmore Bell in Wichita to set up the IRB paperwork.

CVA will contribute an organizational fee to Republic County to be given to the Republic County Economic Development.

The first step is to hold a hearing of the public announcing the project and that hearing will be held on January 9th, 2023 in the Courthouse courtroom at 11:00 a.m. The dirt work is projected to start in the spring of 2023. Gilmore Bell will send the notice of publication to both The Belleville Telescope and The Courtland Journal.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented an Abstract Total vs Outstanding Tax list showing 45.91% of the 2022 taxes have been paid by December 16.

At 12:35 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess to executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected employee wages and performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 20 minutes.

The board reconvened at 1:00 p.m., taking no action.

After a brief review and discussions of the requests from department heads were proposed.

- Raymond Raney total wage of \$68,000 including the \$8,000 from the 911 fund from the State 911 funds.

Commission Garman made a motion to increase Raney's wages to \$68,000. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Commission Splichal made a motion to allow the following wage increases for department heads.

Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

- Levi Whitley \$5,000
- Ken Robbins \$5,000 split between R&B and S/W
- Toby Marco \$5,000 (agreed when hired after 6 months), shared with Cloud County.
- Patrick Comstock \$3,000
- Mike Nondorf \$3,000

Commission Jeardoe made a motion to increase Elected official wages by \$5,000 and the following will be their wage for 2023 except for Commissioners. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

- Attorney \$61,740
- Clerk \$50,100
- Sheriff \$59,300
- Register of Deeds \$44,100
- Treasurer \$50,100

After a phone conference with Faye Jones to review the wage requests for her department, Commissioner Garman made a motion to increase Jones wage to \$75,000. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

- Faye Jones \$75,000 (agreed when hired after 6 months)

Commission Jeardoe made a motion for the commissioners not to hold their regular meeting on December 27,2022. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commission Jeardoe made a motion to give the commissioner’s a \$2,500 increase for a total \$17,500 for 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Susan Aaron presented for signature the Amended Bylaws for the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Clerk Marsicek submitted for signature a letter of support for the North Central Regional Planning Commission for a grant.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 2:40 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners’ boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member