

## REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 10, 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. Fred Arnold 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 of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the October 3, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$241,602.97.

Permission to travel was granted for Sandee Swanson to attend the Kansas Register of Deeds Association Fall Seminar on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Overland Park and the Fidlar Tech Fall Partner meeting in Overland Park on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, explained her concerns regarding the Belleville Mainstreet and Chamber.

A complete list of all persons attending the commission meeting is attached separately.

The Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group joined the meeting.

Layne Holmes, spokesperson for the group, requested answers to questions posed last week including:

- Why is Next Era paying the attorney that is representing Republic County?
- Why can't there be a vote of the over 4000 citizens of Republic County?
- How can commissioners with a conflict of interest have the right to decide whether or not a wind farm comes in to Republic County?
- Why hasn't the commissioners issued a Moratorium on the issue of Windfarms?
- You posted the proposed agreements but we want to see the original agreements. Can they be posted on the website?

Kelli Child asked if the commissioners had read the section in the KAC Handbook regarding ethical behavior of commissioners? If so, how Commissioner Splichal and Jeardoe not have a conflict of interest ethically since they have family members that will benefit from the towers?

Childs also asked why is the setback from the nearest city 1 mile and only 1500 feet from a residence?

Joanne Filinger asked "who do we (non-participates) contact when we have issues regarding the towers. There is nothing in any of the agreements about that?" The setback proposed is 1500 feet, the commissioners stated earlier it would be larger.

Commissioner Garman stated the setbacks were set per the manufacturer's recommendations. In regards to the original agreements being posted, those will be posted this week on the same website as the proposed agreements.

Barbara Fisher asked if the out of county landowners were more important than the residents of the county? She also asked, by allowing the windfarm to develop, aren't we setting up zoning in the county?

Harold Wilber stated that the county needs to collect Payment in lieu of taxes on the towers when they are built not after the 10-year exemption period.

Tommy Kokko announced that if anyone has issues with the project to contact him.

The Honorable Todd Allen, Mayor of Courtland, visited with the commissioners.

- Courtland is doing OK.
- He thanked the county road department for assisting with the overlay in the city.
- He thanked the EMS and Sheriff's officers that responded quickly to the legal issues in Courtland the past couple of weeks with great professionalism.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS department, reported the following:

- The updated lightbulbs in the bay are on back order.
- EMS building was inspected by Medicaid/Medicare last week and awaiting results.
- Paris Yungeberg will complete his Paramedic training by the end of this year.
- Reported that the approved truck from Melton Motor will not be available for 6-9 months.
- Whitley explained there have been issues with the current command vehicle not being reliable and they need a vehicle before the 6-9-month timeframe.
- Permission was granted for Ty Sothers and Erin Williams to attend a Rescue Specialist training in Salina on October 22.
- Whitley contacted TCS and their vehicle would be available by December. Since the EMS department will be requesting a second command vehicle next year can the vehicle for TCS be ordered and when the truck from Melton Motor is available that would cover the second vehicle.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of the vehicle from TCS. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Jeardoe.

Kenneth Robbins and Nathan Craig, presented for review, Highway, Transportation and Bridge issues:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Two employees have completed blade operator training and have been promoted to Operator 2. Rayford Franklin and Xavier Hebert new wage is \$16.25 per hour.
- Samuel Slinker was hired as an Operator 1 starting October 12 with a wage of \$14.20 per hour.
- Discussion regarding how to control the dust issue on 70 Rd. The road crew applied milling to the section from US 36 to Nesika plant.
- Robbins and Craig presented several samples of gravel and explained the different grades of gravel and how they are used on different roads.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss legal issues pertaining to Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:10 a.m., no action taken.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting.

At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe moved to recess into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Voth, Robbins and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:35 a.m., no action taken.

At 11:36 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 30 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Voth and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:31 p.m., no action taken.

Commissioner Jeardoe read a request from Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK) to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Republic County.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioners discussed the bid for a new phone system from Twin Valley Communications.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bid from Twin Valley using the current cables in the courthouse and not to install until after January 1, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 17, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the District Court Courtroom to accommodate additional persons.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin Splichal, Member

## REPUBLIC COUNTY KANSAS

## ATTENDANCE RECORD

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2022

|    | <b>Name</b>        | <b>Company/City</b>      |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1  | Fred Arnold        | The Belleville Telescope |
| 2  | Tommy Kokko        | NextEra                  |
| 3  | Kelli Childs       | Belleville               |
| 4  | Kurt Childs        | Belleville               |
| 5  | Penny Messing      | Cuba                     |
| 6  | Layne Holmes       | Bryon                    |
| 7  | Karrie Holmes      | Bryon                    |
| 8  | Ashton Holmes      | Bryon                    |
| 9  | Darin Saunders     | Bryon                    |
| 10 | Annette Bredthauer | Belleville               |
| 11 | Cheryl Denk        | Agenda                   |
| 12 | Lane Shoemaker     | Chester                  |
| 13 | Dawn Surber        | Belleville               |
| 14 | Alan Anderson      | NextEra                  |
| 15 | Kevin Hoops        | Bryon                    |
| 16 | Paula Hoops        | Bryon                    |
| 17 | Matt Dowell        | Cuba                     |
| 18 | Randy Junek        | Belleville               |
| 19 | AJ Johnson         | Belleville               |
| 20 | Mike Kolman        | Cuba                     |
| 21 | Harold Wilber      | Belleville               |
| 22 | Jeanette Sheets    | Belleville               |
| 23 | Alice Klima        | Belleville               |
| 24 | Joanne Filinger    | Cuba                     |
| 25 | Barbara Fisher     | Belleville               |
| 26 | Brenda Danielson   | Belleville               |
| 27 | Deanna Morris      | Belleville               |
| 28 | Jennifer Craig     | Munden                   |
| 29 | Shellie Baxter     | Haddam                   |
| 30 | Edward Sandberg    | Agenda                   |
| 31 | Waylon Sheets      | Belleville               |
| 32 | Bernie Carrio      | Cuba                     |
| 33 | Chris James        | Belleville               |
| 34 | Linda Trecek       | Agenda                   |
|    |                    |                          |