

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. From 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., they met in the District courtroom and from 10:00 to 1:20 p.m. in the Commissioner's board room. 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 Wade Moss, Landmark 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 October 10, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 8:35 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe moved to recess into executive session for 20 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss legal issues pertaining to Republic County. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 8:55 a.m., no action taken.

At 8:55 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 and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., no action taken.

Sheriff David Cox reported that Betti has been recertified for a year as K-9 for Republic County. Cox stated that Mid-year of 2023, Betti will be retiring and a new K-9 will be purchased. Cox also stated that inmates needing dental work are being transfer to a dentist in Concordia.

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

The Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group joined the meeting.

Commissioner Garman announced that since someone in this the group has hired legal Counsel; the Republic County Commissioners will no longer answer any questions asked from the group but the Commissioners will listen to the questions to further research information regarding the questions.

Joanne and Jeff Flinger stated that NextEra was asked to wait until harvest was complete before driving on a field to collect core samples. NextEra did not wait and destroyed crops. Flinger's are renters of the ground and contacted the sheriff's office regarding the trespassing. The landowner will be contacted to file claim damages against NextEra.

Harold Wilber is not against the wind towers but wants to make sure that all non-participating people are protected in the agreements.

Kelli Childs stated that there are not any projected inflation rates included in any of the agreements. Childs also stated that wind towers are the largest users of electricity in America.

Matt Dowel asked how much money will the county receive? The desire of these funds should go to economic development. There should have been a Net Economic Development study performed before this project was started.

Frank Rytych asked, "I was wondering if we found a massive oil reserve under eastern Republic County, would we be having this conversation? If it were oil instead of wind? I compliment you commissioners for being so patient and understanding, and I congratulate you for that."

Tyson Merritt explained his family's poor experiences with windfarms and hopes that Republic County will not be a repeat of that experience.

Doris Kauer thanked the commissioners for the work they have done regarding the windfarm project. She explained that she would not want to go back in time when there was no electricity.

Kurt Childs introduced Patrick Hughes, Attorney from Adam Jones Law Firm.

Hughes stated that he is just acting as an advisor for the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group. He stated that everyone reads an agreement differently. Most agreements have good points but they can always be more specific. Each of the agreements has areas that should be addressed.

Joanne F. asked what is the recourse for non-participates?

Kelli Childs asked what will the county do if there is an issue with a turbine? Childs also asked if the application for ADLS lights has been approved?

Alan Anderson responded that until all the final locations are approved the application for ADLS cannot be approved.

Layne Holms stated that information regarding who is responsible for current or future damage to non-participate property needs to be in an agreement.

Kelli Childs asked who established the setback distance?

Anderson responded it was supplied from the manufacturer.

Commissioner Garman requested that Anderson provide that information to be posted on the website.

At 10:00 a.m. the meeting was moved to the regular boardroom.

Raymond Raney and Colleen Alkire joined the meeting. Raney was notified that Alkire will have vacation hours exceeding the limit for carry over into the new year and asked if there are any options so she does not lose these hours. Raney stated that Alkire was unable to use vacation hours due to a shortage of staff and COVID.

Commissioner Garman thanked Alkire for her dedication to her job and requested that she try to use as many hours as possible before the December 31 deadline.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced the hiring of Carl Jackson as an operator 1 at a rate of \$14.20.

Robin Carlson, Monica Thayer and Bethany Wallin from PIVOTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS introduced the new business that has opened in Courtland. Their desire is to offer an alternative health care program to citizens in Republic County and surrounding counties. PIVOTAL will work to provide services to assist the Health Department and hospital.

Patrick Comstock asked permission to purchase a new AED for the courthouse basement floor.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of a new AED. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signatures the agreement from Twin Valley Communications to purchase a phone system for the courthouse.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the permission to travel for Faye Jones to attend the Regional Public Health meeting in Beloit, KS on November 2, 2022. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

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

At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 45 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 and Voth.

The board reconvened at 12:00 p.m., no action taken.

At 12:05 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe moved to recess into executive session for 30 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 and Voth.

The board reconvened at 12:35 p.m., no action taken.

At 12:35 p.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to recess into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Voth.

The board reconvened at 12:50 p.m., no action taken.

At 12:50 p.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Voth.

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

At 1:05 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe moved to recess into executive session for 10 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 and Voth.

The board reconvened at 1:15 p.m., no action taken.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 1:20 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 24, 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 17, 2022

#	NAME 10-17	City
1	Deb Hadachek	The Belleville Telescope
2	Tommy Kokko	NextEra
3	Alan Anderson	NextEra
4,5,6	Ahava Merritt + 2 children	Munden
7	Annette Bredthauer	Belleville
8	Ashton Holmes	Deshlar
9	Barbara Fisher	Belleville
10	Barry Baxa	Cuba
11	Becky Gehle	Republic
12	Benjamin Hoops	Bryon
13	Bethany Wallin	Courtland
14	Brenda Danielson	Belleville
15	Bryan Simms	Republic
16	Butch Gieber	Cuba
17	Carolyn Simms	Republic
18	Dalton Glasscock, Halo	Kansas City
19	Darin Saunders	Bryon
20	Daryl Levendofske	Belleville
21	David Kadavy	Concordia
22	David Strnad	Munden
23	Deanna Morris	Belleville
24	Deloris Hoops	Bryon
25	Denise Dove	Belleville
26	Doris Kauer	Cuba
27	Frank Rytych	Cuba
28	Harold Wilber	Belleville
29	Hughstin Pachta	Cuba
30	Idan Kauer	Cuba
31	Ila Van Nortwick	Belleville
32	Jacob Wilber	Belleville
33	James Rundus	Munden
34	Jeanette Sheets	Belleville
35	Jeff Filinger	Cuba
36	Jennifer Craig	Munden
37	Jennifer Loring	Scandia
38	Jesy Strnad	Cuba
39	Jim Pachta	Belleville
40	Joanne Baxa	Cuba

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#	NAME 10-17	City
41	Joanne Filinger	Cuba
42	Karrie Holmes	Bryon
43,44,45	Kelli Childs + 2 children	Belleville
46	Ken Robbins	Belleville
47	Kevin Hoops	Bryon
48	Kris James	Belleville
49	Kurt Childs	Belleville
50	Lane Shoemaker	Chester
51	Larry Benyshek	Manhattan
52	Layne Holmes	Bryon
53	Linda Gieber	Cuba
54	Linda Trecek	Agenda
55	Matt Dowell	Cuba
56	Max Filinger	Cuba
57	Melody Joy	Narka
58	Melroy Kopsa	Cuba
59	Monica Thayer	Courtland
60	Nathan Craig	Munden
61	Patrick Hughes	Wichita, Adams Jones Law Firm
62	Paula Hoops	Bryon
63	Peg Lesovsky	Cuba
64	Philip Meinecke	Belleville
65	Randy Junek	Belleville
66	Ray Danielson	Belleville
67	Robert Aldridge	Munden
68	Robert Lahodny	Belleville
69	Robin Carlson	Courtland
70,71,72	Shelly Baxter + 2 children	Haddam
73	Steve Skocny	Cuba
74	Susan Saunders	Republic
75	Terry Marcotte	Belleville
76	Tom Lesovsky	Cuba
77	Tynan Dowell	Cuba
78	Tyson Merritt	Munden