

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

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 31, 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. Others attending were Robert Lahodny, Joanne Filinger, Brenda Danielson, Harold Wilber, Alan Anderson and Adam Richardson from NextEra.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Amos McCarty, United Methodist 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 24, 2022 minutes requesting correction of a typo error changing most to motion. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek reported that information for the KORA request from Kriegshauser Ney has been sent at no charge.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, shared that the large pot hole in the alleyway still has not been fixed.

Permission to use the courthouse square for the Annual Christmas on the square celebration was presented.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the use of the courthouse square. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

An application for Demolition assistance from the Republic County Economic Development was presented for Keith Anderson. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the assistance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion with Commissioner Garman making it unanimous.

Sheriff David Cox presented the following information.

- Quote from Lock-it for 2 new computers with special software for Sheriff's office and permission to use the County Equipment fund to cover the cost.
- A request to use the 2023 Public Safety fund for a new vehicle that was requested during 2022.
- Research to replace Betti, K-9 officer. Request that the new K-9 be dual trained with drugs and tracking.
- A deputy is to be certified to operate drones and will be requesting permission to purchase a law enforcement drone.
- Currently, there are 8 inmates in custody.

Susan Aaron presented for signature the application for Emergency Management Performance Grant Funds.

Aaron asked if the commissioners would submit a letter of support for JBN Telephone company for a grant to increase the fiber-optic broadband in Republic County.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to send a letter of support for JBN Telephone. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

The commissioners accept with regrets the resignation of Kay Shoemaker as RCD treasurer effective January 31, 2023.

Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen presented for review, Highway, Transportation and Bridge issues:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Craig announced that the bridge on Jewell County line is complete.
- Road crews will continue sealing south of Munden.
- Craig presented for signatures the agreement with Kirkham Michael as Republic County's engineer over the High Banks Wind project.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the agreement with Kirkham Michael. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

- Road grader agreement for reconditioning has been signed.
- Bowen announced that KDOT has designated November 7 to November 11 as mobility week and door prizes will be awarded to riders.
- Bowen shared that the numbers of riders has been increasing each week.

Harold Wilber requested that the commissioners announce when there will not be a Public Forum during the weekly meeting so the public will know.

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

Voth stated she has brought the original agreements signed by NextEra's Lawyer however, the top description has been changed from the "draft version" to "execution version". After reviewing the documents, two documents needed the disclosure that they were missing the DocuSign notation. Commissioner Garman asked that all the documents be the same. Once those are received the commissioners will sign them and post them on the Republic County website.

Adam Richardson, NextEra construction manager, shared information regarding the activities proceeding on the High Banks project.

- The construction group is concentrating on the laydown yard located on US 36 near 240 Rd.
- Project will begin in the NE part of the county then go the SE part of the county.
- Two companies are involved currently.
  - Blanter Energy
  - Kiewit Construction TIC
- The project operational date will be the fall of 2023.

Commissioner Garman asked who is point of contact of this project and who oversees these companies.

Richardson responded that he is the point of contact and will be overseeing all phases of this project. All communication questions should be directed to him.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked if the ADLS applications have been submitted.

Anderson reported that the applications have been submitted and will report back an estimated time of answering.

Voth suggested that all documentation on the Republic county website be on its own page for people to review more easily.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 30 minutes for Attorney-Client regarding the High Banks Project. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Voth and Clerk Marsicek.

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

At 11:10 a.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to recess into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client regarding the High Banks Project. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Voth and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal requested that additional information regarding his disclosure statement be added to the Republic County Website. Clerk Marsicek will make sure the additional information is added to the website.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. so the Commissioners could partake in the Halloween potluck in the courthouse. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 7, 2022, 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

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Melvin Jeardoe, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member