

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Doug Garman was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was 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 in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the June 6, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$363,419.73.

Sheriff David Cox announced that the new vehicle is scheduled for the new computer chip and then it will be ready to ship.

Cox also announced there was an altercation in the jail and all procedures were followed.

Because of this altercation, Sheriff Cox requested that the new wage rates be implemented now instead of waiting until January 2023. This requested was tabled until all commissioners can review the request.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development secretary, asked to reschedule her meeting until all the commissioners were present.

Attending the Public Forum time were Brenda Danielson, Robert Lahodny, Harold Wilber, Jeanette Sheets, Jennifer Loring, Kelli Childs and Annette Bredthauer.

- Lahodny stated his support for the windfarm project.
- Wilber also stated his support but suggested to the commissioners to make sure that all citizen requests are addressed in the agreements, including setback, blade flicker, decommissioning and the rights of the non-participating citizens.
- Danielson asked if the windfarm project is so good, why are counties with them making resolutions to stop any more from coming into their counties?

Alan Anderson, NextEra, replied that there is research and history on windfarms available. NextEra has been building windfarms in Kansas for over 20 years and currently have 40 projects active. Windfarms are going to have an effect on the county as a whole with agreements dealing with setbacks and decommissioning. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks has done research as to the effects on all animals and have given their approval otherwise the project would not proceed.

- Sheets presented a book to each commissioner titled, Paradise Destroyed by Gregg Hubner. Sheets also had an article that addresses possible grants available for Historical buildings.
- Childs requested an update on the agreements being prepared between Republic County and NextEra. Are the commissioners working on them one at a time or all of them at once?

Both commissioners responded that all the agreements are done at same time and that all the commissioners have researched many articles and read the information supplied to them from all the citizens. When/or if the agreements are signed the information will be made available on our county website.

- Bredthauer presented information on how the very noisy wind turbines cause health concerns.

Ken Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste Director presented the weekly report of concerns and department activities.

Sheila Nelson-Stout, OCCK representative, presented their annual report. It has been a busy year for OCCK during 2021 including providing services to 146 Republic County residents. The 81 Connection bus has provided 538 rides for persons from Republic County in the last year. White announced that due to additional funds for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities services from the legislature, OCCK is not increasing its request for funding from Republic County for 2023.

Childs, Sheets and Bredthauer returned to the meeting to request that Republic County concerned citizens should have priority over outside persons during public forum. Commissioner Splichal explained that Splichal asked NextEra attorney to answer the question of one of the concerned citizens that is why he was speaking during that allotted time. County citizens are a priority to the Commissioners and always will be.

Laura Leite and Raymond Raney, project coordinators for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), presented a checklist for allowing outside sources use any of the ARPA funds received by Republic County. The updated regulations are more less strict therefore any project that normally would use county funds will qualify. The list of requested projects was reviewed and Raney will submit actual costs for the top priority projects and then the commissioners will make their final approval of the use of the ARPA funds.

Susan Aaron, Taskforce representative, reported that the plans for the Annual Employee Appreciation meals are complete.

- Courthouse meal will be June 27 at 11:30 a.m.
- EMS meal will be in October day and time TBD.
- Road & Bridge will be in October day and time TBD

Aaron also reported that she is assisting the Health Department with their Facebook page until a new director is hired. She will place some information on that page regarding the reduced services and list of vacant positions.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for Attorney/Client purpose for 10 minutes to discuss pending litigation. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek.

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

Clerk Marsicek was requested to schedule a meeting with the search committee for hiring the Health Department director for either later this week or the first part of next week.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Chairman Splichal seconded to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 20, 2022, beginning at 8:30am at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member