

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 8:00 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 Amos McCarthy, United Methodist 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 August 1, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$225,119.47.

Clerk Marsicek announced a change in the agenda because the election reports weren't available for canvass at 8:00 a.m. but will be ready for 10:00 a.m. when the commissioners had an opening in the schedule.

Commissioner Splichal complimented the NCK Fair board on the production of a wonderful fair last week and that the new restrooms in the commercial hall looked wonderful.

Sheriff David Cox announced that three past deputies for Republic County passed away and that current deputies presented the last call at the services for each officer.

Cox explained that because of the increase in fuel prices, the deputies will monitor necessary usage and rotate purchasing fuel from our fuel center and the Love's Station.

Cox announced that the big double refrigerator is not working correctly but can still be used for non-perishable foods.

Cox presented a quote to install a portable visitation booth from Spaceworx for a cost of \$6235.00. The public safety funds can be used for the purchase. It comes unassembled. Once assembled it will have computer monitor access for inmates and attorneys to use.

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

Jerry Stump, concerned citizen, presented information in support of the Windfarm project by explaining that he worked as a property tax accountant for Kansas Power & Light (KP&L) aka (Eversource) back in the 1970's when there was a new proposal to locate a coal powered site in Pottawatomie County. Many people questioned the health, wealth and safety of that project. Today, 50 years later, this utility provides 49% of the county's property tax base. A general business textbook stated, "Unlimited needs and wants but limited resources is the issue. This is true of every individual, business and government unit. It is necessary to establish priorities." There are advantages and disadvantages to everything and everybody. It is often a tradeoff situation. All change involves loss, frustration, and anxiety. It is normal for good quality people to have a reaction."

Stump thanked the commissioners for all the hard work and research they have done and are doing in regards to this project.

Citizens attending the public forum were Idan Kauer, Doris Kauer, Cheryl Denk, Jerry Stump, Robert Lahodny, Frank Rytych, Joanne Filinger, Jeff Filinger, Jeanette Sheets, Brenda Danielson, Kurt Childs, Tommy Kokko and Alan Anderson.

Danielson raised questions about where NextEra will get the water to mix with the concrete since there is a shortage of water in Republic County. Another concern regards whose responsible for damages caused when a blade from the tower falls and damages property or if the turbine catches on fire. What protection is there for all the non-participating land owners?

Kokko from NextEra explained that the water used to mix with concrete will be brought into Republic County by truck.

Rytych explained that he is for the project and as for the concerns for the non-participating land owners, every project has its advantages, disadvantages and risks. In his opinion the advantages outweigh the risks.

Joanne Filinger feels this project is too large and condensed in our small part of the county.

Denk visited with a local veterinarian regarding the possible health issues to humans and animals living around wind towers and Dr. Lannie Hanel assured her the wind towers were safe to live around.

Anderson explained that 20 years of experience including thousands of towers and safety standards go into the planning of projects.

Sheets is concerned for the protection of all Republic County not just the eastern side.

Danielson requested that this project go to a vote and let the citizens make the decision.

Susan Aaron presented two Solid waste agreements for signature for the cities of Courtland and Narka.

Aaron requested two corrections to the August 1 minutes were noted. The LEPC meeting will be held in the Republic County Courthouse and the Solid Waste delinquent hearing for August 8 is for the residents not tenants.

Discussion regarding the applications for ARPA funds resulted in a motion to approve the following application amounts. Good drinking water is a necessity.

- Rural Water District #1 \$150,000
- Rural Water District #2 \$150,000
- City of Scandia \$75,000
- City of Munden \$6,000

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve applications as listed above as long as project coordinator receive all necessary documentation from the applicants. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Mary Simmons, Deputy Elections Clerk, presented 8 provisional ballots, one UACAVA ballot and individual precinct results for action by the canvass board of commissioners. The 9 provisional ballots were reviewed and 4 were eligible for hand count along with the UACAVA ballot.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management Director, presented a contract between Republic County and Fidlar Technologies to scan the remaining deed books in the amount of \$52,415.94. Also included in contract is an estimate to index scanned books if the Deeds office requests assistance.

Raney presented quotes for a generator and concrete pad for the courthouse.

- Heineken Electric \$60,313 and \$600 for concrete pad from Hoge Concrete
- Hoods plumbing and Heating \$69,237

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bid from Heineken and ARPA funds are to be used. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Raney also presented a quote from Jackson's Glass to replace two windows in the dispatch area with bullet proof glass. The quote is in the amount of \$8,349.00.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept the bid from Jackson's Glass and ARPA funds are to be used. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Raney presented pictures from a Drone of the Emergency tower that was bent due to the windstorm last December. It is the consensus of the board to close the insurance claim since the tower is operational.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Garman opened the Solid Waste Delinquent hearing. Attending the hearing were the commissioners, Aaron, Robbins, Jeff Filinger and Clerk Marsicek.

Aaron presented a list of delinquent residents and amounts due. The total delinquent is \$8,014.55 plus penalty fees of \$2,275.00.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, joined the meeting to answer questions regarding the application for ARPA funds to scan and index the balance of the Deed, Mortgage and Miscellaneous books. Swanson explained that the scanning of the books is necessary to computerize the old records for research and for record preservation. Information regarding the indexing portion of the application is to assist with the sorting of documents within the office's software system for searching.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the bid from Fidlar of \$52,415.00 for the scanning and include an additional \$22,584.00 for indexing (a total of \$75000.00) using ARPA funds. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report

At 11:30 a.m., hearing no objections to the solid waste delinquent tax notices, Commissioner Garman closed the solid waste hearing.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, visited with the board regarding the bids to repair the lights in the bay area of the Ambulance stations.

- Knox Electrical \$5,300.00
- Hoods Heating and Air \$4,132.00

- Petersen Electric \$3,341.50

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the bid from Petersen Electric. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Whitley and Beikmann presented two agreements for signatures:

- Education Grant program Incentive agree with the Kansas State Board of EMS.
- Updated banking information WPS Government Administrators to receive Medicare payments.

Whitley requested permission to replace the current command vehicle. The commissioners suggested they get quotes from local dealers and search on the Government Surplus website.

Commissioners discussed the requests of the concerned citizens regarding a countywide vote, if a vote could be held on the November ballot or if it would need to be a special election.

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that since the commissioners are elected by the citizens to act in the best interest of the citizens and have reviewed all the information for and against the windfarm project. He feels that the decision of the commissioners will be in the best interest for all the citizens.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to contact our County Attorney for wording for a non-binding ballot regarding the windfarm project.

Commissioner Splichal and Commissioner Jeardoe did not second the motion and the motion died.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 12:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 15, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member