

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 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.

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

Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the August 8, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff David Cox announced that jailer Caleb Bates has been promoted to full-time and Cox presented a change of status for signatures.

Cox reported that the single portable booth is ordered but a down payment of ½ is required. Commissioners granted approval to send the partial payment.

Cox announced that all the Cloud County inmates have been returned to Cloud County facility.

Clerk Marsicek announced that there may be an election recount in Republic County. The Secretary of State's office will give final notification by 5:00 P.M. today.

Commissioner Garman asked if any department heads had discussed the proposed upgrades for the phone system in the courthouse. Clerk Marsicek is to contact the department heads for their suggestions and report back next week.

Correspondence from KWORCC was discussed requesting a voting delegate at the annual meeting.

Concerned citizens joining the public forum were Tommy Kokko, Al Anderson, Melody Joy, Jennifer Loring, Idan Kauer, Noah Cardi, Melroy Kopsa, Robert Lahodny, Terry Marcotte, Annette Bredthauer, Joanne Filinger, Jeff Filinger, Barb Fisher, Carolyn Simms, Brenda Danielson, Matt Dowell and Katherine Wilber.

Dowell asked the commissioners that remained silent at the last meeting regarding the motion Commissioner Garman made about pursuing a non-binding question being put to vote by the citizens of Republic County.

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that no wording for a ballot would be acceptable by all citizens.

Commissioner Splichal explained that he has not seen any specific wording that would satisfy everyone.

Commissioner Garman shared that the wording that was proposed by the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy group called for 10x the tower height as a setback and no other wording.

Dowell reported that several counties that originally approved windfarms has since created resolutions to ban any further windfarms and some have become zoned counties. Dowell asked the commissioners if any of them had visited with these counties that are now banning windfarms. The commissioner stated that they have not contacted any of those counties but they have visited with various landowner and some commissioners of counties that have approved the windfarms.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked the group if any of them have contacted any county that has a windfarm and is wanting additional towers.

Kauer announced that he has visited a few windfarm areas to see the roads and other conditions after the project was completed. He also visited up close to towers and the noise level was nothing like others had been describing.

Bredthauer shared that it depends how close or how far away from the turbines as to what the noise level is.

Danielson presented data regarding a turbine project in Texas.

Dowell and the group asked that the commissioners provide protection for non-participating landowners.

Danielson shared that their group has been named the Anti-windfarm group and that is not true, they just want to have protection for their property as a non-participating landowner.

Anderson explained that some counties are zoned and others are not zoned. Counties that are zoned can pass resolutions after a project has been completed but non-zoned counties it is more difficult to pass resolutions unless they decide to become zoned.

Anderson announced that there will be an informational meeting on August 25 at the Cuba Community Center 6-8 pm. Where many questions can be answered about the proposed windfarm project. Citizens can send questions ahead of time or ask the questions that night.

K. Wilber invited the commissioner to the annual Ice Cream Social for the Republic County Historical Museum on August 21 from 4-6 pm.

Wilber suggests that the front steps project will have to be extended until next spring by the time we find a contractor and funds it would possibly be winter. Wilber suggested that this is a large project and if we could find the original grant that was written back in 2003 or 2004, we could have most of the information needed to reduce the processing this time. Clerk Marsicek will contact the Register of Deeds office to see if the original grant written back then would be available to review and assist with the new grant. Commissioner Jeardoe volunteered to assist with the grant writing once this information is located.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report
- Robbins announced the return of a past employee, Justin McGinley, on August 15.
- Work on the first mile of 30 Rd north of Courtland should be completed this week.
- Republic County is working with Jewell County engineer on the bridge replacement south to Timber road on the county line.
- Testing of road material on 70 Rd south of US 36 to Nesika is being done in preparation of a request to have that road changed to asphalt in the future.

- Robbins presented for signature on solid waste agreements with Agenda and Cuba.
- Robbins reported that a few employees have taken advantage of the extra hours on Friday to assist mowing and grading roads.

Faye Jones, Melissa Miller and Lori Benyshek for the health department presented updates at the health department.

- One health department vehicle is being repaired.
- Jones presented a quote for new computer because the computer assigned to the director cannot be repaired. Jones was instructed to present two quotes when requesting to purchase item over \$1,000 except for medical supplies.
- Permissions to travel for trainings were approved as follow:
 - Faye Jones and Melissa Miller to attend Hearing screening training for certification in Lawrence from September 7 to September 9.
 - Faye Jones, Melissa Miller and Lori Benyshek to visit Washington County Health Department to observe and ask questions regarding procedures and programs.
- Jones announced that as soon as certification and a contract with a PA or Doctor in the clinic is completed a Family Planning program will be offered through the Health Department.
- Vaccine recertification process has started and hopefully by the end of August immunization will be offered.

Raymond Raney joined the meeting to discuss the updated ARPA funding report. The commissioners noticed an approval of the Communications departments request to replace ANALOG with DIGITAL mobile and hand held equipment in the amount of \$33,882.05. It is a necessary update needed to communicate with surrounding emergency services.

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

Discussion was held regarding the future purchase of a multipurpose building to store supplies and hold trainings. This was followed by a discussion of the possibility of a recycling center building.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 22, 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