

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Commissioner Melvin Jeardoe joined the meeting by zoom starting at 9:45 a.m. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Fred Arnold from Belleville Telescope monitored the meeting. Other guests were Kurt Childs, Kelli Childs, Brian Isaacson, Matt Dowell, Tommy Kokko and Allen Anderson from NextEra, Robert Lahodny and Alex Whitney from NTV in Lincoln, NE.

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

Pastor Sang Hak Lee, United Methodist Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the April 4, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented for signature the re-appointment of Medical Director for EMS provider for Dr. Nolan Beavers. Whitley announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May is National EMS week. Whitley announced that the EMS department received a grant to purchase the ventilator for the ambulance and has already been using the new equipment.

Whitley reported that the Republic County EMS has only declined one transfer since January 1, 2022.

A letter of resignation was read from the Health Department Administrator effective April 21, 2022. Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept with regrets the resignation. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A state of disaster Emergency Proclamation was received and presented from Governor Laura Kelly affecting all 105 counties from March 17 to April 1, 2022.

Kurt Childs, representing the Republic County Responsible Wind Energy Group, presented information regarding the proposed High Banks Energy Wind Power Plant-Economic Impact.

- Lease payments
- Pilot payments
- Pilot payments vs Property Taxes without tax abatement
- Property tax after year 10
- Wind Company profits
- Property Values/Home discussion
- Jobs Created
- Roads/Decommissioning/Construction Benefits
- Future considerations

Childs invited the commissioners to attend an Information only meeting on April 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the NCK 4-H building.

Robert Lahodny, concerned citizen, explained that he has been a supporter of the wind farm project since the first contact back in 2016. It will be a great opportunity for Republic County.

Anderson and Kokko answered general questions for clarification on the windfarm project.

- High Banks LLC is a sub entity of NextEra and fully supported by NextEra.
- All towers in Kansas installed by NextEra are still owned by NextEra.
- Decommissioning of a turbine is included within the lease contracts of the landowners and the county agreements. There are security agreements in place to cover the expenses if necessary.

Kenneth Robbins, Highway, Transportation and Bridge Administrator presented and discussed with Commissioners the following:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins joined the Commissioners and Trish Voth to review the proposals sent to Republic County.

Zoom connection with Commissioner Jeardoe began at 9:45 a.m.

Justin Ferrell ,County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 1 hour to discuss attorney-client information to review the proposed windfarm documents. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Robbins, Ferrell and Voth.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m., taking no action.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 1 hour to discuss attorney-client information to review the proposed windfarm documents. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Robbins, Ferrell and Voth.

The board reconvened at 12:05 p.m., taking no action.

At 12:10 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss attorney-client information to review the proposed windfarm documents. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Robbins, Ferrell and Voth. Commissioner Splichal requested two extensions of 15 minutes each.

The board reconvened at 1:10 p.m. Attorney Trish Voth will return on Monday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. to present revisions.

At 1:20 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman – Chair

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Edwin Splichal – Member

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Melvin Jeardoe– Member