

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal via Zoom from Switzerland for the first part of meeting. 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 Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Nondorf, Weeds Director, discussed options with the commissioners should he decide to retire. Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Nondorf contact HR and KPERS for options if he decides to retire.

Clerk Marsicek presented a form from the State of Kansas to release Barry Porter as Appraiser by retirement.

Toby Marco, the new County Appraiser, joined the meeting for official appointment to the position of Appraiser. Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2022-22 appointing Toby Marco as Republic County's Appraiser effective July 18, 2022. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented an Interlocal agreement and contract between Republic County and Cloud County to share Toby Marco as appraiser. Marco will fulfill Porter's unexpired term until June 30, 2025. The terms include sharing wages and employee benefits. Marco agrees to establish residency in either Cloud County or Republic County within a year.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept the agreement. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he had received a quote from Mid-Continent for the replacement of the front steps of the courthouse. A copy was given to Katherine Wilber to assist with the repair project.

Several concerned citizens joined the meeting: Layne Holms, Carolyn Simms, Melody Joy, Alan Sheets, Jeanette Sheets, Robert Lahodny, Joanne Filingier, Max Filingier, Matt Dowell, Tina Holton-Rice, Mary Parry, Jennifer Loring, Brenda Danielson, Barb Fisher, Kelli Childs, Kurt Childs, Annette Bredthauer, David Kadavy, Amy Harms, Jennifer Craig, Peggy Massing, Lane Shoemaker, Terry Marcotte, Steve Scofield, Tommy Kokko, Luke Hagedorn and Katherine Wilber.

Wilber reported that she had received the quote from Mid-Continent but still has not received any local quote but she is still researching. The courthouse steps must be repaired.

Loring reported that Republic County may lose new citizens if the windfarm project proceeds.

Max Filinger voiced his concern with younger generations possibly not wanting to return to Republic County after graduating from college because of the projected wind turbine project.

Holton-Rice stated that she had visited with landowners in the Colby area. The discussion included issues regarding farming and living around turbines. The landowner stated issues with cell reception, WIFI and the need to go back to landlines because of the interference. There was also heavy traffic for two years while the project was built. Holton-Rice is also concerned about the effects of turbines on bats in the area.

Concerns about notifying the public when roads are under construction or because of the delivery of equipment and parts for the turbine.

Commissioner Jeardoe assured everyone that notification will be broadcasted on the radio or in the paper so everyone will know dates and times if/when the project moves forward.

Danielson reported from the informational meeting last Friday that the presenter stated that the wind company did not follow through with repairs to roads that they promised they would.

Sheriff Dave Cox announced that the new vehicle has been delivered.

Kurt Child presented an answer to a question last week regarding if the county approved a 10x setback, would it be applied to all structures built not just turbines. Child stated it would apply as a courtesy to neighbors if you build a large structure to make sure to discuss with neighbor first.

Commissioner Garman recommended that NextEra hold public meetings where answers to many of these questions could be answered. Questions regarding set-backs and decommissioning have been topics of every meeting and in a public meeting everyone could hear the same answer. Commissioner Garman assured everyone that the commissioners have taken notes and asked many of these same questions when researching a windfarm project to become as informed as possible before making any recommendations.

Holmes stressed the importance of decommissioning in the event the project goes through. Holmes shared that the windfarm company needs to be held responsible for all cost of decommissioning whether it is 25 years or more down the road. The landowners and Republic County should not be held with those expenses.

Joanne Filinger stated that the commissioners have an extremely difficult decision, trying to ensure what is the best for the citizens of Republic County.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced the hiring of Xavier Herbert as equipment operator 1 with an hourly wage of \$14.20.
- There are still 5 openings in the road and bridge department.
- Republic County was able to purchase the patching machine through an auction. County employees will pick it up next week.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked for an update on the Kyle Railroad overpass near Nickel Road. Robbins reported there has not been any additional communication with Kyle Railroad.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

At 10:26 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client privilege information for a pending case. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 10:36 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to lack of quorum, no meeting will be held on July 25. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 1, 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