

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from Belleville Telescope monitored 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 Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the January 17, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

This years' regular accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount \$112,775.49 and the bill back vouchers in the amount of \$59,458.09.

Commissioners Jeardoe and Splichal plan on attending the Republic County Hospital board meeting at noon.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the appointment of Tanner Johnson to serve as a non-lawyer member of the Twelfth District Judicial Nominating Commission for four years. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Correspondence was received from Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVAC) requesting that Republic County proclaim January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and National Stalking Awareness Month.

Danielle Swanson, Justin Ferrell and Raymond Raney presented their updates.

Danielle Swanson, Health Department Administrator, reported testing 142 persons for COVID with 82 being positive in the last week. Currently, there are 72 active cases with 3 hospitalized. Swanson has contracted a local nurse to assist with the testing.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that there has been a meeting set up with the attorney from Foulstons for next week January 31. Due to court hearings this morning, Ferrell left the meeting.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management, is researching with Patrick Comstock to locate a vendor to supply and install the new requested lock for the north courthouse door.

Barry Porter, County Appraiser, updated the board regarding the open position in his department. Currently, he has not received qualified applicates. Until the position is filled, Retha Blecha will be putting in overtime to cover both positions.

The Honorable Mayor of Belleville, Adam Robertson and Belleville City Manager, Adam Anderson presented updates on the City of Belleville.

- The search for a good source of water continues. The city is working with the Rural Water District #2 to meet their needs of a treatment system plant for their water. Applications for grants and other funding have been filed.
- It is time for the annual bridge inspection on the main street viaduct and asked if the county could include that with their regular inspection of bridges this year. Ken Robbins attending this meeting assured the city that the bridge could be included with the county inspections.

- Anderson asked if the city could move excess dirt from the detention basin on the county’s ground west of Love’s. The detention basin is part of the road project to and from the Love’s Station to the north and south. This project will start in March. The engineers for the project are Campbell and Johnson.

Ken Robbins remained after the City of Belleville officials left the meeting.

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins reported that Kyle Railroad has agreed to remove the debris from the east approach to the center span that intersects on 190 Road north of Marble Road.
- Robbins is organizing an equipment list with a six-year purchasing plan.
- Robbins asked the commissioners if they would consider a modification of the policy hand book regarding new year compensation for employees still in their introductory period since the new compensation plan became effective for 2022 for his departments.

After reviewing Section 303 and 304 in the Republic County Employee Policy Handbook updated October 2019 regarding introductory period for new employees, Commissioner Garman made a motion to temporarily suspend paragraph 3 of Section 303 requiring the introduction period to be completed before any increase in compensation and paragraph 7 of Section 304 requiring the same time frame before increase in compensation and all employees that have not completed their introductory period before January 1, 2022 to receive their compensation as proposed by their supervisors. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, reported that they have applied for 2 grants to assist with equipment purchases in 2022. Two vendors have reviewed the roof issue at the ambulance building. Neither has responded with a quote to repair the roof.

Whitley and Beikmann plan on attending the Hospital Board meeting to discuss the future of the bay for loading and unloading patients.

At 11:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding an HR issue. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Whitley, Beikmann and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:35 a.m., taking no action at this time.

After reviewing many vouchers for goods purchased outside of Republic County, the commissioners are requesting that all possible purchases be made locally if the products are available and meet the purchasing procurement resolution from 2014. A memo will be given to the department heads regarding this reminder of memos sent out in 2004 and 2005.

At 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn so commissioners could attend the hospital board meeting. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made in unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Melvin Jeardoe– Member