

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 26, 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.

Pastor Jacob Rice, Central Christian Church of Belleville, 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 September 19, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$143,495.82.

John Shea, North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) Director, introduced himself to the board. Shea recently accepted his position and is visiting all the counties within the NCRPC. Shea presented a list of current projects in Republic County that the NCRPC is assisting.

Shea invited the Commission to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCRPC on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Beloit. He will send written invitations later.

Attendees during Public Forum were Deb Hadachek, Greg Allen, Layne Holmes, Terry Marcotte, Joanne Filingier, Jennifer Loring, Jeanette Sheets, Melody Joy, Kelli Childs, Alan Anderson, Tommy Kokko, Brenda Danielson, and Robert Lahodny.

Allen shared that he is from the Nemaha County area close to the windfarm. He stated that the noise is awful and that the windfarm company did not keep their promises to repair roads or respect non-participating landowners' property.

Holmes requested an update on the agreements between Republic County and Next Era regarding the windfarm project and when the agreements are made public, the commissioners allow ample time for the public to review the details before making a final decision. Holmes stated that there should be a vote of the citizens not just a decision of the three commissioners.

Childs asked who was paying for the attorney that Republic County hired to review and prepare agreements.

Commissioner Garman stated that Next-Era is being invoiced for all the work our hired attorney is doing to prepare the agreements for Republic County.

Childs shared information from several Kansas and Nebraska counties that have banned or have moratoriums against windfarms.

Holms expressed his concern about the commissioners giving special treatment to the few landowners that want the turbines and not the majority that do not want the turbines.

Commissioner Garman stated that no matter what decision the commissioners make, not every citizen will be satisfied.

Lahodny shared that his land is his land and if he wants a turbine on their land that should be his right. He should be able to use his land as he sees best for him and his family.

Anderson stated that there is never 100% support on any project that is developed.

Tammy Taylor, Twin Valley Communications, explained the quote for a phone system for the courthouse and answered questions regarding changes from the current system to this new system. The Commissioners will review all the information and options and will notify Taylor of the decision at a later date.

The Honorable Mayor Adam Robertson and Adam Anderson, City Manager of Belleville, updated the commission on projects in Belleville.

Arlene Clayton announced that a new Wheat Protein Plant has opened in Philipsburg, Kansas.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Road crews are patching asphalt roads because preserving asphalt roads is a necessity.
- Last week several loads of gravel were delivered to roads.
- Road crews will be assisting cities sealing streets for the winter.
- Robbins is researching new software for equipment that tracks the repairs to roads.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined via Zoom.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Splichal moved to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Voth and Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes

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

At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to recess into executive session for 30 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Voth. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 30 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:55 a.m., no action taken.

Clerk Marsicek announced for Susan Aaron that Republic County LEPC and the Republic County Hospital will hold a joint full-scale exercise on the afternoon of October 12<sup>th</sup> in Belleville.

Commissioners designated Commissioner Jear DOE and Commissioner Splichal as voting delegates to the annual KCAMP meeting.

Commissioner Splichal stated that he attended the monthly Juvenile Detention meeting on September 21.

Commissioner Jear DOE plans to attend the Pawnee Mental Health meeting on Tuesday, September 27.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 3, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman, Chairperson

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Melvin Jear DOE, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member