

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 8:00 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the April 18, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$189,551.07.

Commissioners Jeardoe and Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

David Cox, Ken Robbins, Barry Porter, Cindy Coons, Patrick Comstock, Raymond Raney, Stacey Bowen, Nathan Craig, Justin Ferrell, Levi Whitley, Jeff Beikmann, Brynn Alexander and Sandee Swanson joined the meeting to discuss wage issues.

At 8:05 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding wages. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Board, Cox, Robbins, Porter, Coons, Comstock, Raney, Bowen, Ferrell, Whitley, Beikmann Alexander, Swanson and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The Board reconvened at 8:30 a.m. reporting the department heads will schedule a follow-up meeting on May 2.

Dawn Snyder, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, presented for approval the FY2023 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Grant signatory form and the FY2023 Adult Comprehensive Plan Grant signatory form.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the grant applications. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Harold Wilber, concerned citizen, suggested to the board should present a request to NextEra to cover the Payment in Lieu of tax (PILOT) instead of NextEra telling the board what NextEra will contribute to the county for the PILOT payment. The commissioners should not accept anything less than what the county offers local taxpayers for Neighborhood Revitalization Program payments.

Commissioner Garman thanked Wilber for that suggestion and it will be discussed with the attorney.

The following citizens of Republic County joined the meeting for public forum: Carolyn Simms, Jeanette Sheets, Andrea Fischer, Duane Gile, Terry Gile, Annette Bredthauer, Terry Marcotte, Carl Baxa, Karen Baxa, Andy Messing, Peggy Messing, Tynan Dowell, Jennifer Craig, Amy Harms, Jamon Harms, Barb Fisher, Joanne Weatherhead, Debbie Sells, Keith Sells, Jerry Stump and Jennifer Loring.

The group wants the commissioners to understand all options before making any decisions. The group is looking into the process for a moratorium on the project.

Commissioner Garman announced the release of a draft of the road use and constructions route. It can be found on the Republic County website.

Baxa asked how many residents will leave the county or how many will not come to Republic County if we allow the wind turbines? If the reason the turbines is just money, remember money is the root of all evil.

Fisher asked if the commissioner had reviewed the Wind ordinance that Neosho County approved after their wind turbines had been built. Commissioner Garman replied that the commissioners had received a copy of the ordinance.

Simms presented copies of information from the informational meeting on Tuesday, April 19 to each commissioner.

Others voiced their concern that Republic County remain home for many generations to come. We need to think of the next generations not just today.

Mr. and Mrs. Sells voiced the unfairness of wage increases received by all the employees of the health department as part of the negotiations to retain Danielle Swanson as the Director of the Health Department. Those wages are paid by taxpayer money.

The Honorable Mayor of Scandia, Dana Larson, introduced himself as the newly installed Mayor. Larson explained that he is learning a lot but he is enjoying the challenge.

- Requested ARPA funds to assist with a water well for Scandia.
- Requested that the county assist with resurfacing streets in Scandia this year. Ken Robbins agreed if the materials and time were available after the road north of Scandia was resealed this summer, the county would be able to help with the streets in Scandia.
- The county will pick up piles collected in the city cleanup and dispose of properly.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Additional culverts have been ordered.
- Robbins announced the publishing of the draft for the road use and construction routes planned for the wind turbine project if it is approved.
- Robbins explained that road crews assisted with the train/commercial carrier accident west of Courtland last week.
- Robbins presented for signature a utility agreement between Republic County and Tony Strnad to construct and operate an underground waterline. Agreement was approved.
- Robbins is researching quotes for the planned overlays in Republic County.

David Blecha, county citizen, gave words of encouragement to the commissioners regarding their work on the proposed windfarm project. Blecha knows the commissioners will do what is best for Republic County.

Raymond Raney presented the list of requested applications for use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The county funds will total \$900,489.00 after the second check is received in June. The total of the applications is 2.6 million for 18 applications. There are 11 application from county departments and 7 applications from businesses including 2 cities. The commissioners need to review and prioritize the applications.

Sheriff Dave Cox presented a wage scale for the sheriff department and jail department. Cox's wage scale will be effective January 1, 2023. The proposed increases will stay within his 2022 personal service budget.

Commissioner Garman presented a request for Disaster relief of property taxes for a house that was destroyed by a fire in May 2021.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the Disaster relief request. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented emails of condolence from other county commissioners at the death of Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom.

At 12:05 p.m., Commissioner Garman requested an executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personal regarding wages. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners.

The board reconvened at 12:10 p.m. taking no action.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the monthly Juvenile Detention meeting on April 18.

At 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn in order to attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 8:00 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