

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman and Melvin Jeardoe. Edwin Splichal was absent. 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the June 27, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special meeting on June 28, 2022. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kelvin Blecha and Kevin Jensen, NCK Fair Board, presented a quote for \$90,621.50 to totally complete the remodeling of the restrooms at the commercial building.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to agree to pay the additional quote to finish the project at the commercial building. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Permission to travel was granted for Raymond Raney to attend the Kansas Association for Floodplain Management conference in Lawrence from August 30 to September 1.

Katherine Wilber, Brenda Danielson and Alan Anderson from Next-Era joined the meeting for open forum.

Wilber reported that she is still researching contractors that will bid on replacing or repairing the front steps of courthouse.

Danielson presented a scaled drawing of the comparison between a twenty-foot-high house and the proposed 650-foot wind turbines. Danielson invited all in attendance to attend the informational meeting to be held on July 15 at 7:00 PM in the commercial building on the fairgrounds.

Hadachek shared information from the Beloit Call newspaper that Mitchell County's Health Department is discontinuing all services except Home Health and it will be private pay only.

Commissioner Garman announced that interviews were held on June 28 for the Director of the Health Department. Faye Jones was offered the position and she accepted. Jones salary will be \$70,000 and she will start fulltime on August 1, 2022 pending pre-employment screening.

Clerk Marsicek presented three resolutions to transfer unencumbered funds from 2021 into 2022 active funds as follows:

- Resolution No. 2022-19 transferring \$350,000 from Road & Bridge general funds to Special Highway improvements.
- Resolution No. 2022-20 transferring \$100,000 from Ambulance General funds to Special Ambulance Equipment.
- Resolution No. 2022-21 transferring \$75,000 from County General to County Equipment Reserve.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the fore mentioned resolutions. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Garman suggested to Anderson that NextEra publish informational facts regarding the installation of the turbines such as size of the bases, concrete and materials used so all persons will have the same information.

Sheriff David Cox announced that the new truck ordered in February will be delivered this week.

Cox also requested an update on his request for increase in wages for the jailers that he presented in May.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the requested wage increases effective July 1 instead of January 1, 2023 alight of the recent altercations in the past few months. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins will be short 6 employees at the R&B department in 2 weeks. Robbins is using operators on a rotation basis to assist with other projects until employees are hired to fill the positons.
- Republic County has purchased a broom through Ritchie Brothers Auction and 2 employees will be driving to Texas on Wednesday to pick it up.
- Robbins and Bowen presented a request to change the transportation drivers to fulltime instead of part-time. The number of riders has increased greatly since the beginning of the year and the county has 2 transportation buses available to use. The request would be for one position to become fulltime later in July and the second position after January 1, 2023.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the request to promote one part-time position to a full-time position for the rest of 2022. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Robbins presented for signatures a project agreement C-5165-01 between Republic County and Kansas Department of Transportation. The agreement is an 80/20 share on the bridge at X-27.2.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the request for Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris Chartered to prepare the 2023 county budget. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney, EM Director, presented an updated ARPA request sheet for review and approval of requests. Approval was tabled until all commissioners could discuss the new figures.

Raney announced that a representative from Twin Valley Communications will present a demo on August 1 at 10:00 AM and invited the commissioners and department heads to attend. This is a proposed new system for the entire courthouse and departments located outside the courthouse.

At 11:30 am, Commissioners contacted the Cloud County Commissioners via phone conference.

At 11:35 am, Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding an appraiser candidate. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion

carried. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Cloud County Clerk Shella Thoman and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:00 p.m., taking no action.

Raney rejoined the meeting at noon.

At 12:01 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding an employee's concerns regarding benefits. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners and Raney. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:16 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to instruct payroll to reimburse Raney of two months H.S.A. benefits. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion and Chairman Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 11, 2022, beginning at 8:30am at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member