

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 27, 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.

Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$50,588.47.

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

At 8:35am Commissioner Splichal moved and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to enter into executive session for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the proposed wind farm project for 25 minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session were the three commissioners and Voth.

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. taking no action.

Jennifer Russell, Economic Development presented a Paint the County Grant application from Richard & Louella Snodgrass to paint a house and small garage and be reimbursed through grant program.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the grant application. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion that was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Belleville City Manager Adam Anderson and Councilman Doane Sells urged the County to hold yearly tax sales on delinquent property. Holding tax sales help clean up the communities by changing ownership on buildings that need repair or demolished.

Attending the Public Forum time were Kelli Childs, Jeanette Sheets, Jennifer Loring, Harold Wilber, Linda Trecek, Brenda Danielson, Arlene Clayton, Robert Lahodny and Joanne Filinger.

Childs stressed that wind turbines will have an adverse effect on wildlife and if there have been studies done in this area, why are they not made public? Setback is still a major issue of wind turbines.

Wilber stressed that the setback distance be from the property line not the residence. Wilber encourages the commissioners to look at all angles of the project before making a decision.

Bredthauer also stresses that the setback distances be consistent.

Filinger asked that transparency is a must when a project involves the whole county.

Danielson asked if there was any truth with rumors that the City of Belleville will be powered by these towers.

Commissioner Garman reassured the citizens that the commissioners are looking at all sides of the project. The agreements have been sent to Next Era from our attorney from Foulston LLP and until our attorney notifies the commissioners, no information will be shared with the citizens.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director and Assistant Director, updated the commissioners on projects in the bay at the station. Whitley announced that the EMS department had their annual inspection by Kansas Board of EMS and the department received a perfect scoring. Whitley reported his department has taken 46 transfers since January 2022 and have only turned down 2.

Commissioners discussed increasing the mileage reimbursement for employees using their own vehicle on county business compared to the IRS recommendation of \$.62.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to increase the mileage reimbursement to \$.58 effective July 1, 2022.

Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Clerk Marsicek presented recommendations from our auditor regarding transfers of unencumbered 2021 funds. Commissioners requested that Clerk Marsicek contact each department and discuss the amounts with the department head and report back to commissioners next week for action.

Commissioners called Cloud County Commissioners at 10:00 to discuss the applicants for the Appraiser position.

At 10:03 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel candidates for Appraiser with the Cloud County Commissioners. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Attending then session were the Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Cathy Davis, Cloud County Deputy Clerk, and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:18 a.m., taking no action.

Representing the Republic County Hospital were Dawn Kasl, Dan Kelly and Brent Martin. Since the county owns the building and the property, the group requested that Republic County allow a grant application in the county's name DBA Republic County Hospital on a USDA grant.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve applying in the county's name on the grant application.

Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Barry Porter, County Appraiser and IT contact, explained an email stating that Google will be charging for our website emails. Porter will research the county's options and present recommendations.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners and Porter.

The board reconvened at 11:25 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed and the employee appreciation luncheon ready, Commissioner Jeardoe moved and Chairman Splichal seconded to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to July 4th on Monday, the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, July 5, 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