

## **REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom joined via conference call. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek, the Belleville Telescope observed parts of the meeting. Other guests include Dawn Kasl and Shawna Bowers.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Wade Moss, Landmark Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the August 10, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney and Justin Ferrell presented updates on SPARK and requested action regarding extending or rescinding Resolution No. 2020-40 dealing with wearing facial coverings in Republic County.

Dawn Kasl and Shawna Bowers from Republic County Hospital suggested that the commissioners extend the wearing of facial coverings another two weeks. They firmly believe that the coverings are slowing down the spread of the virus. The hospital will continue to require the facial coverings for employees and any patients in the hospital.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-40 but highly encourage people to wear facial coverings in public especially when social distancing is not feasible. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raney announced that the reimbursement request and the direct spending request from the SPARK funds have been submitted to the state for approval. A couple of departments requested hazard pay for employees that have been directly in contact with COVID-19 patients. Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the SPARK leader requested a motion to approve the amount of hazard pay each employee could receive. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to table the discussion regarding hazard pay until Republic County has received approval or disapproval of the direct spending request which could be as late as September 15. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ferrell shared that there has not been any update in research on the Kansas vs Nebraska television stations. He also announced that the titles to the delinquent tax properties are being filed with the court.

Idan Kauer, county resident, requested contact information regarding property values. Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Kauer contact Barry Porter in the County Appraiser office and if Kauer thinks the values are not correct to pay his taxes under protest, then the Board of Tax Appeals can review information from the county appraisal.

Kauer also reported an issue with drainage through one of his fields and suggested that the county assist with redirecting the channel to the culvert. Commissioner Jeardoe will notify the road department of the issue and request that someone contact Kauer.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, presented a report comparing 2019 documents filed to 2020 documents filed through the Deeds office May 1 through August 15 of each year. Swanson's department remained open during the COVID-19 restricted access period and the number of documents recorded were about the same for both years.

Swanson suggested that when a resolution is approved, all departments should abide by what the resolution states, case in point, Resolution No. 2019-30 regarding the starting wages of full time and part time employees. Clerk Marsicek will review the resolution with the County Attorney for necessary clarification.

Susan Aaron, Solid Waste Administrative Assistant, requested signatures on two solid waste fees agreements between Republic County and

- City of Belleville
- City of Agenda

Bobby Lawson, Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen, from road and bridge and transportation departments, presented updates from the county shop area.

Commissioner Splichal requested that Craig contact Idan Kauer regarding a channel drainage issue on his property.

- Craig announced:
  - The service work on the Mac truck should be completed and the Peterbilt dump truck will be started this week.
  - APAC is scheduled to start the work on the bridge approaches by the end of August depending on the weather and other commitments.
  - All the culverts ordered for repairs this year have arrived except for four that should arrive later this week.
  - Diamond road by Kuhlman farm has been graveled.
  - Patching is complete on the Cuba road to K148 and by the old Cuba school. The crew is starting at Narka and will continue south towards Highway US 36.
- Lawson announced:
  - Dewey Bates is the grader operator of District #7 and Bates has completely graded all roads and now will suggest some upgrades to areas.
  - Presented a quote for a new mower from CTI to replace a mower that is not working and parts can not be located. Commissioners requested a second quote for rotary blades to have a comparison.
- Bowen announced:
  - The bridge inspections should be completed by Tuesday, August 18, 2020.
  - The transportation audit will be on August 28.

Deb Hadachek suggested to the commissioners, if there are still funds available through the SPARK project, there is a need for new chairs that can be cleaned since the current chairs are not cleanable in the waiting room areas of the North Central Medical Arts Clinic, both upstairs and down stairs. Commissioners stated that they would put the suggestion on a list but for now, the proposed direct spending plan has been sent to the state for approval.

Commissioner Bergstrom joined the meeting via conference call at 11:05 a.m.

At 11:10 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to executive session for 15 minutes to review and discuss interview notes of non-elected candidates for R & B Administrator. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion and Commissioner Bergstrom made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes

The board reconvened at 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to offer the position pending pre-employment testing. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Bergstrom.

Commissioner Bergstrom left the meeting follow the motion.

Discussion regarding the funds withheld from Fuller Construction invoice was reviewed.

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 24, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jear DOE – Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin Splichal– Member  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin Bergstrom – Member