

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Melvin Jeardoe was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope monitored most of the meeting.

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

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

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from February 20. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$252,363.47 for 2024 and \$7,819.23 for billbacks to 2023.

Terry and Brent Cunningham, Cunningham Telephone & Cable, announced that Cunningham Telephone received a Broadband grant, and the work will begin this summer to install cable in Republic County west of US 81 to Scandia. Terry stated that the utility agreement used by Republic County has a few requirements that Cunningham would like to modify before signing. Commissioner Garman suggested a meeting with Ken Robbins to discuss the requested changes to the agreement.

James Doyle, Treasurer for the Belleville High Banks Racetrack, presented a list of priority maintenance needed at the racetrack as requested by the commissioners. The racing organization is suggesting a donation from Republic County of \$15,000 to be used toward the ADA Accessibility Ramp. Doyle will also ask the City of Belleville to donate \$15,000. During a visit to Topeka, Kansas Lieutenant Governor David Toland offered to grant the Belleville High Banks Speedway \$15,000 toward the ADA Accessibility Ramp. The rest of the funding will be requested through the Republic County Community Foundation.

Doyle asked for a letter of support to accompany the grant application. Clerk Marsicek will create the letter of support and contact Doyle when it is ready.

Ken Robbins, R&B Administrator, joined the meeting to meet with the Cunningham people. Robbins will report to the commissioners next week with the agreement request after the details can be agreed to.

Patrick Comstock, Custodian, announced that the concrete has been poured at the armory.

Gayla Godfrey, County Appraiser, reported that she has requested an extension for the mailing of valuation notices to landowners. Weather conditions have delayed the final inspections needed.

Godfrey announced that a study of residential Real Estate Market for older and newer homes indicates an inflationary trend of 9% increase.

At 9:37 a.m., Commissioner Garman requested an executive session for non-elected personnel for 8 minutes to review employee job performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the two commissioners.

The board reconvened at 9:45 a.m., taking no action.

The Honorable Mayor of Cuba, James Banahan, invited the commissioners to the annual Cuba Rock-A-thon from March 14th to 16th. Banahan asked if the county had set the dates for the county cleanup. Commissioner Garman suggested that Banahan contact Ken Robbins for that information. Cuba is trying to clean up their town by removing older buildings.

Ken Robbins presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge, and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins will meet with Cunningham Telephone regarding the utility agreement.
- Robbins attended the Noxious Weed supervisor training and is waiting for results of the final test.
- Robbins presented a permission to travel form to go to Manhattan on February 28 to attend the County Weed Directors Association of Kansas Annual conference. Mike Nondorf will accompany Robbins to the meeting.
- Letters to the cities regarding the spring cleanup will be mailed this week.
- Road crews are removing trees between 90 Rd and 100 Rd.
- Robbins presented for signatures the solid waste agreements for the following cities.
 - Agenda
 - Republic
 - Narka

Jenny Russell, Republic County Economic Development, presented their 2023 annual report.

- Russell thanked Republic County for contributing to the housing grants.
- The CVA project is underway.
- There are funds available to assist citizens with the removal of houses. The owner does not have to rebuild on that spot.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management, announced the annual Storm Spotter training will be on March 12.

Raney presented an updated list of additional radios for the Rural Fire Districts to be purchased.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of additional radios up to \$15,000 from the windfarm emergency services fund. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raney requested action to authorize the development of software for census program that can be used in many departments to track who lives at that location.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of software up to \$12,000 using the LATCF grant funds. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 4, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

Doug Garman, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member