

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek recorded the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

Commissioner Splichal called the meeting 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 Garman moved and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jeardoe moved to approve December 11, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$308,727.01.

Joan Grover and Jay Kallman, Republic County Council on Aging and Golden Bell Haven visited with the board about projects and issues regarding Republic County and the North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging.

Grover presented the 2022 fiscal year fact sheet for Republic County showing the grand total of dollars invested for the Aging services in Republic County equals \$189,151. The Area on Aging has donated ride fees to the Republic County transportation for the past few years so riders did not have to pay any fair. Due to the changes in the method of recording the number of stops, not just riders, the council can no longer supply the fees. The Republic County Aging network covers activities in all the local towns.

Kallman, Silver haired legislator for Republic County, explained that he is recruiting a council member from each town to be on the council.

Tommy Kokko, Billy Wilkins, Alan Anderson, Dakota Beals, Kolton Garcia, Tanner Yost, and Dave Prater from NextEra joined the meeting to explain the wrap up of construction of the High Banks windfarm project. Wilkins shared that end of construction and repairing of any damages to landowners is underway. The electrical power is now going to the electrical grid. Wilkins introduced Kolton and Dakota as the resource people that will be the contacts for this project. Their office will be in the old Rolling Hills building. The commercial operation date was December 7, 2023. Other temporary employees will remain until March 2023.

James Rundus, New Tabor Cemetery officer, explained that the county needs to add gravel to 230 Rd north of Lincoln Rd to the New Tabor Cemetery.

Raymond Raney presented a price for a regular refrigerator from Cole's Appliance for the communication department.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development (RCD), advised the commissioners that there will be a meeting of the RCD in January. The Emergency loan requirements to TAC LLC dba Pinky's Bar & Grill are complete.

Paul Kallman, Honorable Mayor of Scandia, reported on the city projects in Scandia. Overall things are going well. The installation of the waterline from the new pump east of Scandia is their main issue. The waterline needs to go under the highway and requested information needed from the county to get necessary permits. Ken Robbins was in attendance and instructed Kallman to contact his office for the paperwork.

Kallman knows it is too late for this year, but Scandia needs assistance with the resealing of some streets in town followed by an overlay.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to open the Amended budget hearing. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Ken Robbins, Director of the Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste departments presented the weekly report of concerns and department activities.

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced that the COD (Commercial operation date) for the wind turbines project was December 7.
- The recent rain has caused additional roads that need to be updated.
- Following an inspection of the bridges in Republic County, there are 12 bridges that the maximum weight limit was increased.
- Robbins presented for signature the SOLID WASTE agreement with Cloud County for 2024.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the agreement with Cloud County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

- The bridge south of Agenda on Xaiver Rd is complete.
- Robbins was given permission to pursue the asset management program for the road and bridge department.

Commissioner Garman thanked Robbins for all the work and hours during the construction of the High Banks windfarm project.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2023-39, Cash basis and Budget law for 2024.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2023-40, Elected Official wages for 2024.

- County Attorney \$67,000
- County Sheriff \$65,000
- County Treasurer \$55,100
- County Clerk \$55,100
- County Register of Deeds \$48,100
- County Commissioners \$18,500

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

John Pancost, Bluestem Stoneworks, explained the quote that was sent to replace the front patio and steps. Pancost would like to see the original blueprints from the engineer that designed the 2006 installation of the stones. Pancost highly suggested that the Republic County hire an engineer to design the new plans for the replacement. He suggested that the steps be heated at least in the center with the handrail. He presented three names of engineers-Campbell & Johnson, Kirkham Michael and Vector Structural Design from Lincoln, Nebraska.

At 11:30 a.m., the meeting was moved to the recently purchased building.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe moved, and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to the holiday week, December 25 to December 29, no commission meeting will be held.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member