

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Doug Garman, and Edwin Splichal. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek recorded the minutes.

Commissioner Splichal called the meeting to order, and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Landmark Church of Belleville, offered morning prayer.

Commissioner Garman moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jeardoe moved to approve January 2, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to appoint Melvin Jeardoe as the Chair for 2024. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek and Susan Aaron presented the annual Resolutions and appointment letters for 2024 for Republic County duties.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution numbers 2024-1 to 2024-13 and appointment letters. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Resolution numbers 2024-1 to 2024-13:

- Resolution No. 2024-1, Raymond Raney as 911 Coordinator
- Resolution No. 2024-2, Raymond Raney as half-time Director of Communications.
- Resolution No. 2024-3, Raymond Raney as half-time Emergency Manager.
- Resolution No. 2024-4, Amy Mullis-Havel as Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services.
- Resolution No. 2024-5, Raymond Raney as Flood Plain Manager.
- Resolution No. 2024-6, Raymond Raney as Hazardous Materials Advisor.
- Resolution No. 2024-7, Faye Jones as Director of the Health Department.
- Resolution No. 2024-8, Ken Robbins as the Highway Administrator.
- Resolution No. 2024-9, Raymond Raney as Radiological Officer.
- Resolution No. 2024-10, Raymond Raney as Safety Officer.
- Resolution No. 2024-11, Ken Robbins as the Solid Waste Director.
- Resolution No. 2024-12, Ken Robbins as the Transportation Director.
- Resolution No. 2024-13, David (Levi) Whitley as Director of Emergency Medical Services.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the county newspapers and radio station as The Belleville Telescope, The Courtland Journal and KREP-92 radio. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Permission was granted for Melissa Miller, Lydia Pachta and Faye Jones to attend the North Central Kansas Healthcare Collaborative meeting in Salina on January 12.

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

- Presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The truck for the Appraiser's office is ready for pick up near Topeka. When the weather allows, it will be picked up.
- Robbins is researching the request from the Bureau of Land Management regarding the ownership of canal bridges.
- Road crews are trying to stay ahead of the weather regarding the road updates.
- Commissioner Jeardoe shared that since Republic County is wanting to update some buildings at the county shop area. He suggested that Robbins go visit the public works areas in Jewell County and Mitchell County.

Skylar Tuxhorn and Shannon Short, board members of the Blair Theater, requested that the commissioner reconsider not donating to the Blair theater. The Blair theater is NOT closing. Tuxhorn explained that the Blair theater is going through changes from paid personnel to all volunteers. There have not been many movies shown because of the writer strike that started in October in California and the process required to show movies. Currently, movies are shown only when there is sponsorship of the movie. Any person or organization can sponsor a movie and that sponsorship offsets the expenses to rent the movie.

There has been remodeling done to the eastside of the Blair that would become dressing rooms for people performing at the Blair. The Blair theater applied for a grant in the amount of \$450,000 and will be awarded it after additional paperwork is filed.

Tuxhorn encourages all people with concerns regarding the Blair theater and movies to contact the Blair theater at their Facebook page.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to rescind the motion made on January 2 to withhold the contribution to the Blair theater and authorize the regular contribution be distributed during 2024. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Sheriff Dave Cox reported that the weather is getting worse and would recommend that the courthouse and other non-essential employees go home and suggested a late start on Tuesday if not closed completely.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to close the courthouse and health department at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8 and propose a 10:00 a.m. start on Tuesday, January 9 unless the weather warrants closing completely. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Patrick Comstock, custodian, informed the commissioners that Republic County would be receiving a quote for two new doors for the entryway at the armory building. Comstock requested a timeframe for starting to remove the old paneling in the meeting room at the armory. Commissioners agreed that whenever the custodians have time, they may remove the paneling.

Clerk Marsicek asked permission for a new line item in the custodians' budget for 2024 and in the future allowing for safety clothing in the amount of \$150.00 per year per person. The commissioners unanimously agreed that the safety equipment should be in the budget.

Correspondence from Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas asking Republic County to proclaim January 2024 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and National Stalking Awareness Month. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to proclaim these two in Republic County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

At 10:30 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for non-elected personnel exception for 15 minutes to review employee performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:50 a.m., taking no action.

The commissioners instructed Clerk Marsicek to ask each department head to present the current wage scale for their department to the commissioners and a copy to Clerk Marsicek to be kept as a record for future wage changes. Each department head is to schedule a meeting with the commissioners to review the wage scale and explain any changes that were made from the first wage scale that was submitted in 2022.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signature the application to the Board of Tax Appeals to remove all taxes from the property located at 2003 Frontage Road (old armory).

Commissioner Jeardoe will attend the Special interview Pawnee Mental Health on January 16th.

With all agenda items completed and inclement weather at hand, Commissioner Splichal moved, and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 15, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

Edwin Splichal, Member

Doug Garman, Member