

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Edwin Splichal, and Doug Garman. 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from March 11. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek presented a letter addressed to Durlfing Service for signatures regarding damage to the courthouse lawn.

Faye Jones, Health Department administrator, presented a wage increase form for longevity of 5 years for Vickie Hagen.

Jones requested permission to travel for 3 training courses.

- Emergency Preparedness tabletop Exercise in Beloit on March 20<sup>th</sup> for Jones.
- 2024 LHD Billing Symposium in Wichita for Lori Benyshek and Jones from April 2 to April 4.
- 2024 Kansas WIC Conference in Wichita for Mellissa Miller and Vickie Hagan from April 22 to April 24.

Permission to attend all training courses was approved by the commissioners.

Jones reported that the steps on the west side of the building have been replaced. Most of the remodeling inside the Health Department building is completed.

Patrick Comstock, Custodian, requested a quote from Callaway Fencing to repair the fence in the area behind the armory.

Comstock requested permission to purchase a utility trailer to haul the mowers when mowing the armory, EMS lawn and Health Department lawn. American Trailer has a trailer that both mowers will fit on.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to purchase the trailer from American Trailer for \$2,499.99. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

The commissioners will tour the purposed training room at the armory to develop an information sheet so an ad may be placed for contractors to submit bids.

Clerk Marsicek announced that Senator Jerry Moran contacted Republic County regarding a grant that has been approved through the appropriations committee in Rural Development department. The grant is a 75/25 match with county funds for a maximum of \$250,000 from the Federal Government. The funds are to be used to update the front steps of the Republic County Courthouse.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, reported that about half of the CPR/First Aid trainings are complete and 68 people have attended.

Whitley suggested that the county order a truck bed insert for additional storage space for supplies and equipment in his command truck. Whitley presented a quote from TCS Upfitting for \$4,614.50. TCS Upfitting is the company that installed the other emergency equipment in the command vehicle.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to purchase the insert from TCS Upfitting using county safety equipment fund. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, explained that the NCK Fair needs to have activities for all ages such as the Duck ponds for kids.

Clayton also announced that no birds lost their lives in Republic County because of the turbines.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins and Commissioner Jeardoe met with NextEra/High Banks Windfarm representatives last week to review the request of repairs that Republic County has proposed before Republic County will take over the maintenance of the haul routes. No solutions were approved at that time. The beacon lights are flashing less than 15% of the time.
- Commissioner Jeardoe asked if the road crews could remove the extra sand located at the armory. Robbins will get with Patrick Comstock to coordinate a time to remove the sand.
- Robbins will accompany Dane Barclay to a meeting in Ellsworth County regarding the mixing of millings and oil to use the millings on roads in Republic County.
- Robbins presented for signatures a solid waste agreement with the City of Munden.

Susan Aaron, Emergency Management administrative assistant, presented for signatures the annual lease agreement to use the county's antenna between Republic County and Jerry Strnad.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested a report on the use of the pay phone located in front of the courthouse. Clerk Marsicek said that she will contact Pacific Telemanagement Services (PCS) that manages the phone for that information.

Representatives from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Sheena Halverstadt and Tony Miller, presented a proclamation announcing that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and asked the commissioners to sign the proclamation. It was the consensus of the board to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Larry Tebow, county citizen, thanked Republic County for the new tube under the road and the additional rock on the road near his residence.

Commissioner Splichal will attend the monthly Juvenile meeting on Wednesday, March 20.

Doane Sells, Nebraska Tour of cars, asked permission to hire the county transportation buses from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to transport people from the city park to downtown Belleville. Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Sells contact the transportation director.

At 11:15 a.m., the Commissioners, Comstock and Clerk Marsicek moved the meeting to the armory to review renovations and determine how the meeting room should be renovated.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to canvassing the Presidential Preference Primary election, the next meeting will be on Monday, March 25, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

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Doug Garman, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member