

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 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 Garman made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the minutes from March 4. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$429,174.00.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signatures a letter of support for a grant for the High Banks Racetrack.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to contribute \$15,000 from the Windfarm funds to be used toward the installation of a new handicap ramp at the Belleville High Banks grandstands. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Pastor Snodgrass asked permission to use the courthouse lawn for the annual Easter Egg hunt on March 30. The commissioners granted permission.

James Doyle, Belleville High banks racetrack committee, thanked the commissioners for the letter of support for the grant application.

Clerk Marsicek announced that Kay Shoemaker reminded the commissioner that there will not be a Republic County Economic Development meeting in March.

At 8:53 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter an executive session for employer negotiations for 5 minutes to discuss job duties. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:03 a.m., taking no action.

Patrick Comstock, custodian, presented the two sealed quotes for the lawn watering services not including sprinkler head repairs around the courthouse: Services include spring activation, summer checkup and winterization of water system.

- Kustom Lawn & Irrigation, Clyde           \$340
- Performance Irrigation LLC               \$475

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the quote from Kustom Lawn & Irrigation. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Honorable Mayor of Munden, Jimmie Blecha, reported updates from his city.

- The water tower will be drained in a couple of weeks for inspection.
- The RFD #3 held its annual pancake fundraiser and there was a nice crowd supporting the fundraiser.
- The waterline updates are progressing.
- Republic County qualified for a clean-up grant from the RCED.
- The blacktop road south of Munden needs to have some repairs done.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins presented a line agreement between Republic County and Cunningham Cable for signatures.
- Robbins reported that the new part time grader operator is learning quickly.
- Robbins announced that on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m., He and Commissioner Jeardoe will attend a meeting with Next Era to discuss the maintenance of the haul roads that are to be maintained by the county.
- Robbins is compiling the annual report for Noxious weeds, and it will be submitted by the end of this week.

At 10:10 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for contract negotiations for 15 minutes to discuss duties. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins, Craig and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:35 a.m., taking no action.

Following discussion about additional funding for repairs at the North Central Kansas Fair Grounds and other financial requests the commissioners agreed to use Windfarm funds to assist with these requests.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to donate \$100,000 to the NCK Fair board to help with repairs on the buildings. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to donate \$100,000 to each of the Rural Water Districts to assist with expenses to provide drinking water within the county. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek explained that the fund that was used to purchase the armory is depleted until a transfer is approved to create a balance. Marsicek asked what fund should be used to cover the expenses of the renovations to the armory.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to use \$30,000 of ARPA funds to cover the expenses. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion and Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 18, 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

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Doug Garman, Member

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Edwin Splichal, Member