

# REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

## MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Edwin Splichal, and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek recorded the minutes. Deb Hadachek monitored most of the meeting.

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

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered morning prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe moved to approve January 15, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amounts of \$237,257.26 for bill backs to 2023 and \$1,241,376.80 for the 2024 vouchers.

Commissioners Jeardoe and Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

At 8:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss matters of non-elected personnel for 5 minutes regarding employee performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners.

The board reconvened at 8:40 a.m., taking no action.

Republic County Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek held a conference call with the Jewell County Commissioners- Brent Beck, Keith Roe, Ed Duskie and Carla Waugh, County Clerk.

At 8:50 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss matters of non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding employee performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Jewell County Commissioners, Clerks Waugh and Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., taking no action and ending the conference call with Jewell County.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the Kansas Secretary of State, Scott Schwab released the list of Presidential candidate names that will appear on the Presidential Preference Primary on March 19.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he attended a Pawnee Mental meeting to interview candidates for the CEO position. A candidate was hired to replace the retiring Robin Cole.

Patrick Comstock, custodian, presented a quote for the overhead doors at the armory:

- Overhead Door Co. of NCK, Inc. \$11,114.36 installed
- Belleville Hometown Lumber \$10,430.00 doors only, no quote for installation

Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept the quote from Overhead Door Co. in the amount of \$11,114.36 for three overheads doors, a LiftMaster trolley and CPS-U opener to be installed in the armory. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Comstock reported that the lead time is 3-5 weeks.

Adam Anderson, Belleville City Manager, reported on Belleville items:

- Anderson thanked Republic County for maintaining the same solid waste fees for 2024.
- Anderson also thanked Republic County for developing the housing incentive to encourage citizens to build new homes in Republic County. The City of Belleville has a similar incentive program now.
- The Belleville City Council is creating a small delegation of people from the area to visit with the State Senators, Representatives and other officials in Topeka and would encourage a Commissioner to join the group.
- The water treatment project is processing slowly due to the winter weather.

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

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins reported that crews were working to open roads closed by drifting snow.
- Robbins is researching the possible purchase of a wing blade to help remove snow further off the roadways.
- Robbins presented the wage scale as requested by the commissioners.
- The road department is short staffed.

At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes regarding employee performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:30 a.m., taking no action.

Sheriff Dave Cox presented a 2023 overview from the Sheriff's department:

- There were 545 citations issued in which 75% were for speeding.
- There were 159 people booked into the county jail.
- There were 82 arrests.
- The deputies worked 138 accidents.
- Cox reported that the jail staff is fully staffed and there are 7 inmates in the facility.
- An application for a deputy position has been received and an interview will be scheduled.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds(ROD), presented the Deputy ROD wage scale for 2024 as requested by the Commissioners. Swanson explained that one of her goals was to not only bring more exposure and awareness to the office, but to get the wages to where they truly need to be based on wage studies of ROD offices of similar-sized Kansas counties.

Swanson shared that the ROD office offers a FREE service called "Property Fraud Alert" that sends an alert via phone or text message to a property owner whenever there is any activity on their property. Property Fraud Alert does not prevent fraud from happening, however, it does provide an early warning system for property owners to take appropriate actions should they determine possible fraudulent activity has taken place. To sign up for the service, go to the Register of Deeds page on the Republic County website and then to the PFA link to get notices.

With all agenda items completed and so Commissioners can attend the hospital board meeting, Commissioner Garman moved, and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 29, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

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

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

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Edwin Splichal, Member

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Doug Garman, Member