

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Melvin Jeardoe, and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

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

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from November 27, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Commissioners participated in the Post Election Public test for General Election 2023. Ballots were entered into the DS200 counting machine. The results were printed and compared to the Pre-Election Public test results and all race results matched.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins thanked the Commissioners and county employees for their thoughtfulness during the loss of his father.
- The road supervisor has been compiling a priority list of roads that need work since the rains a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Splichal asked for an update on the repairs to the blacktop road south of Munden. Robbins is working with Blattner to schedule the repairs. The road south of Narka has first priority for overlay next year and then other roads will be scheduled.

- Next-Era is projecting that the redlights will go dark by the first of the year.
- The bridge south of Agenda is nearing completion.
- The installation of the bridge located on Xaiver south of Talmo is scheduled for this winter, weather permitting.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting via Zoom.

At 9:28 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of Attorney-Client privilege for 10 minutes to discuss contract information. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins, Voth, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 12 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:50 a.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the 1st Amendment to the Decommissioning agreement and to approve the Estoppel Certification. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motions. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The Zoom meeting was closed after the motion.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of non-elected personnel for 10 minutes to discuss job performance. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Robbins.

The board reconvened at 10:05 a.m., taking no action.

Permission to travel was granted for Sandee Swanson to attend the KAC meeting in Wichita on December 7 in Wichita.

Hadachek reminded the Commissioners that two hospital board members' terms have expired, and the Commissioners need to appoint board members. The two board members are Kent Larson and Deb Hadachek.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to reappoint Larson and Hadachek to the Republic County Hospital Board to serve four years. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek announced that Republic County will hold an amended budget hearing on December 18 at 10:00 a.m. There is only one fund that will be amended. It is the Hospital Sales Tax.

At 10:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of non-elected personnel for 35 minutes to discuss job performance and COLA review. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 30 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:30 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to set the Cost-of-Living Adjustment at 3.5% for 2024. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

David Blecha, Realtor and Lavonne Nightingale from Republic Cloud Title Company presented the closing papers for the purchase of the property located at 2003 Frontage Rd and the invoice for the purchase, realtor fees and closing cost.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, December 11, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member