

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in order to canvass ballots from the November 7 election. 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 of 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 6, 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$917,072.13.

Commissioner Garman and Commissioner Jeardoe and Clerk Marsicek attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the new CVA location on November 10.

Mary Simmons, Deputy Election Clerk, presented 4 provisional ballots to be reviewed and hand counted by the commissioners. All 4 voters had moved within the county and portions of each ballot will count.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development treasurer, presented for signature a release of life insurance for Waylon Sheetz dba Sheetz and Suds Laundromat.

David Blecha, local realtor, joined the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

At 9:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for the Land Acquisition exception for 10 minutes to discuss the purchase of a building. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:30 a.m., taking no action.

Jimmie Blecha, Honorable Mayor of Munden, reported information from Munden.

- The valve replacement on the waterline is scheduled for November 21.
- Recycling continues to be going well.
- Blecha asked if the county could smooth out the blacktop south of Munden.
- Munden could use some cold mix next spring on the road by the park.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2023-37 authorizing Republic County to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone repayment program in 2024.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-37. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- All 233 turbines are fully erected. The only trenching left is in Washington County.

- Commissioner Garman relayed compliments on the crew operating the brush cutter. The county roads look very good.
- There are 74 bridges that were evaluated by the State to confirm load ratings during 2023 and another 74 bridges that will be evaluated during 2024.
- There are eleven bridges that had their weight limit reduced, but only slightly.
- Road and Bridge employees will switch to winter hours starting on November 20.
- All of the regular mowing has been completed.
- Robbins is reviewing equipment that should be updated in 2024.
- Robbins will contact Kirkham Michael in regard to smoothing out the black top road south of Munden.

Terry Loos, CRS Concrete, introduced himself and shared that his company offers stamped and colored concrete steps and patio and works on historical buildings. Loos would like to present a quote for the front steps. CRS is currently replacing an area at the Hebron courthouse.

Clerk Marsicek will contact the Kansas Historical Society to set up a time to come to Belleville to meet with Loos to explain the details of replacing the front steps and patio.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to sign the annual contract for 2024 with Pawnee Mental Health Services. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Following the review of commissioner's district population numbers, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to continue with the current commissioner district boundaries. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the purchase of Battery powered Rescue Equipment from Rescue Specialists for \$19,000.00. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Patrick Comstock, Courthouse Head Custodian, asked why his department has never had a credit card but had to use the County General credit card when he purchased supplies. Clerk Marsicek shared that there is no reason, it was just set up that way when the county issued cards to the departments. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve a credit card for the custodian with a \$2,000 limit. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented an invitation to attend the annual Kirkham Michael appreciation meal in Wichita on December 5, 2023. No commissioner will be available to attend.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 20, 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