

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal and Melvin Jeardoe. Commissioner Doug Garman joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m. 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 Jeardoe 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 July 31, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$238,224.44.

Sheriff David Cox presented quotes for body cameras.

- Digital Ally \$91,250.00
- Motorola \$110,932.00

Both companies offer a 5-year lease exchange warranty plan. The purchase will be paid in the 2024 budget year.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the quote from Digital Ally. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff Cox announced that Sergeant Andrew Bates and the new K-9 Jax have returned from training and are ready for duty.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, announced that the EMS station passed the state inspection. Whitley reported that the Region 4 meeting will be in Belleville on Tuesday, August 8.

Whitley stated that the EMS crews were very busy with calls during the NCK Free Fair both at the fair and with regular medical calls.

Arlene Clayton, a local citizen, reported that the bindweed issue on her block has been taken care of. Clayton also stated that the NCK Free Fair was attended by the most people in many years.

Wayne Pachta and Westin Pachta, citizens of Republic County, joined the meeting to discuss a water well.

Phillip Murrow, NCKLEPG Sanitarian, visited with the board regarding a water well that was not permitted before being dug. There are two types of wells, one is for irrigation or commercial use, and one is for domestic and farm livestock use. If a person wants to dig a well, a permit is required.

At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to open the 2024 Republic County budget hearing. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. No citizens protested the budget information.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Republic County budget. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to close the budget hearing at 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 97 fully erected turbines.
- The recent rains have shown that 60 Rd needs crowning and additional gravel.
- Earthwork will begin on August 7 on Queen Road so it can be used as a detour route while 70 Road is being improved.

Angel Cushing, Allen, Kansas and Beth Salmans, Marysville, Kansas visited with the commissioners about opposing the Chisholm National Historic Trail and Western National Historic Trail Destination. Cushing thanked the commissioners for the resolutions in 2021 Opposing the National Heritage Act and the “30x30 Land program”. Cushing suggested that the commissioners also sign a resolution opposing the Chisholm National Historic Trail and Western National Historic Trail Destination and EPA Effluent limitations rules.

The Commissioners will review the information and decide at a later date.

Susan Aaron and Ken Robbins, Solid waste department, joined the meeting to hold the delinquent solid waste residents hearing.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to open the delinquent solid waste hearing. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Aaron presented a list of 104 delinquent solid waste accounts for review.

At 11:15 a.m., No residents questioned the names on the list. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to close the solid waste hearing. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Aaron presented a request from JBN Telephone Company asking for a letter of support for a grant.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development (RCD) secretary/treasurer, presented 2 release letters for COVID 19 Emergency Business Stimulus loans that have been paid off.

- Belleville Telescope
- Sew Country

Jay Russell from the Swedish American State Bank, and Robin Carlson representing Pivotal Fitness attended to sign the final paperwork for a loan from the Republic County Revolving loan program.

Shoemaker presented a check to Carlson for the amount of \$145,000 for the building purchase.

Permission to travel was granted for Cindy Coons to attend the Kansas Treasurer conference in Salina September 7 to September 8.

Retha Blecha and Anna Porter joined the meeting.

Commissioners received a phone call from the Cloud County Commissioners.

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes about Appraiser candidates. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Porter, Blecha, Cloud County Commissioners, Cloud County Clerk and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 15 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board reconvened at 12:05 p.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-26 to create a Windfarm Contribution fund. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Permission was granted for Sandee Swanson and Olynya Pierson to attend a FIDLAR Partnership meeting and training in Kansas City from October 18 to October 19.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented quotes for 2 office desks.

- Central Office Service & Supply \$2,598.00
- National Business Furniture \$2,868.00

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the quote from Central Office. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

At 12:32 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss land acquisition for 5 minutes about county property. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The board reconvened at 12:37 p.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 14, 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