

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jear DOE, 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 Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to approve the minutes from April 8. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kay Shoemaker left a message to remind the commissioner of the Republic County Development meeting on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 at the Mess Hall in Courtland.

Laura Leite and Raymond Raney discussed the American Rescue Plan Act funding that has not yet been allocated and the necessary reporting from the outside groups that the commission allotted money. The remaining funds need to be allocated by December 31, 2024.

Raney presented the agreement between Republic County and Leite for her signature.

Harold Wilber, concerned citizen, asked if the commission has remodeling plans and use for the armory and if so, what is the budget for those plans? Wilber asked why the county needed to purchase a utility trailer. Commissioner Splichal explained it is to be used to transport the lawn mowers to save time when traveling to the west side of the city to mow county properties.

Wilber suggested that the county use the windfarm contributions to lower the county levy instead of giving to entities that should be using their own funds to operate. The commissioners should be more transparent when making decisions to spend the county's money.

Commissioner Jear DOE reported that he, Clerk Marsicek and Patrick Comstock, custodian, met with CRS Concrete and Katrina Ringle from the Kansas Historical Society, on Wednesday, April 10 to review samples of stamped or painted concrete and a proposal for the front steps and sidewalk leading to the courthouse.

Levy Whitley, EMS Director, presented the budget proposal for 2025 with increases in personal services and insurance.

Whitley reported that the multiple community trainings within Republic County are complete. There were 98 people who attended.

The EMS engaged students from both Republic County and Pike Valley to design a new logo for the EMS work shirt. Whitley presented a picture of the winning design.

EMS has distributed 7 car seats since the first of the year.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins shared that he is bidding online through an auction site for a plow truck. The truck has very few miles and will fill the needs of Republic County.
- Road crews removed trees at 90 Rd and US 36 to open visibility at the intersection.
- Robbins reported that no definite decision was made at the meeting with NextEra regarding the needed repairs to the haul routes used.

Cindy Coons and Laura Joy, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, joined the meeting. Coons announced that Joy has turned in her resignation and will be leaving on May 17.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he and Clerk Marsicek attended a meeting on Wednesday, April 10 in Concordia. It was the North Central Kansas Area Commissioners meeting. This group decided to make it semi-annual event. The commissioners and Clerks can discuss issues pertaining to their counties and learn how other counties deal with those issues. Some of the topics discussed were District Coroners, mental health services, sanitarian, wage studies, insurance, and employee evaluations.

The commissioners discussed the IT agreement with LOCKIT. It was the consensus of the board that each department will be responsible for paying for IT services at a rate of \$35.00 per computer and county general will pay the \$60.00 per computer for the unlimited labor until the contract with LOCKIT is renewed in 2025.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 22, 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

Doug Garman, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member