

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Doug Garman. Edwin Splichal was absent. 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered morning prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman moved to approve January 8, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented a 2023 report of the EMS department including:

- They received 639 calls. 114 were long distance transfers and two were turned down.
- They attended 17 public relation events.
- Held CPR trainings and presented 75 CPR cards.
- Distributed 42 infant car seats.
- Employees have received 521 hours of documented training.
- Entire EMS department clocked 25,651.5 regular hours and 2846 hours of overtime in 2023.
- EMS unit #2 has been designated as the rescue unit and has the special rescue equipment stored in it.
- One of Whitley's goals for the EMS department is to concentrate on rescue training.
- Whitley thanked the city of Belleville for snow removal and Jerry Strnad and David Strnad for assisting pulling the ambulance out when it was stranded in the snow last week.

Commissioner Garman suggested that Whitley contact residents throughout the rural parts of Republic County to be used in situations when the ambulance needs assistance to complete a medical emergency call. Another suggestion is to hold CPR classes in each community.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development secretary/treasurer, presented for signature the Semi-Annual reports for Kansas Department of Commerce.

Faye Jones and Lydia Pachta, County Health Department, presented updates regarding the Health Department.

- Jones stated that the contract between Republic County and Safe Kids Coalition needs to be signed if Republic County wants to continue to receive free car seats, cribs, and bike helmets. Since this program is Federally funded, one highly suggested requirement is to attend the annual meeting that is held at various locations every year. The commissioners granted Jones permission to sign the contract.
- Jones presented a report of the Outreach activities the Health Department participated in during 2023.
- On February 1st, the Health Department has been invited to attend a "Kays" meeting at Pike Valley.

- Updates to the Lactation room and flood damage are almost completed.
- Jones is applying for several grants.
- Jones shared that the Health Department has received calls from parents and current daycare providers about the lack of available daycare in the county, especially for infants. The Health Department is working with the daycare providers to try to identify ways to support the providers and to help increase available daycare services to help with recruiting and retaining employees countywide.

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

- Presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins reported that crews were working through the weekend to open roads closed by drifting snow.
- There are four graders that are not running at this time.
- The truck for the Appraiser's office is at the county shop.
- Robbins visited the Mitchell County weeds and public works facility. Robbins received information from the Mitchell County weed director to assist with necessary reports that will be submitted to the state.
- Robbins shared that postcards will be mailed to rural residents in Washington and Union townships regarding employment opportunities in those areas.
- Robbins presented for signature the solid waste agreement between Republic County and the City of Scandia.
- Robbins will meet with the NextEra representatives in Concordia this week to follow up on the High Banks project.

Commissioner Garman relayed compliments regarding the snow removal. There will always be areas that will not stay open in a winter storm.

Sandee Swanson and Olynya Pierson, Register of Deeds (ROD) office, visited with the Commissioners regarding wages. They showed a comparison of other county wages with similar populations in the State of Kansas and how those averages compared to the wages of the Republic County ROD office for the past three years. It was shown that the 2024 Republic County ROD salary was still lower than the 2021-2022 average wage of ROD with similar populations.

Swanson stated that communication between Commissioners and department heads needs to be improved especially when commissioners are finalizing wages and budgets.

Swanson explained that the ROD office remains very busy and continues making great progress with back indexing documents into the online search program.

Swanson invited the commissioners to spend some time in the ROD office to observe the daily activities and to become more familiar with what the office does.

Patrick Comstock, custodian, presented for review quotes for doors at the armory. The Commissioners requested a second quote before acting on this single quote.

Comstock asked permission to hire a cleaning company to assist with cleaning in July when both custodians will be on vacation at the same time. Permission was granted by the Commissioners.

Comstock presented the wage scale for 2024 for review and signing.

Clerk Marsicek presented for signatures a letter of support for Cunningham Communications for a grant application.

Clerk Marsicek announced the meeting and place of the 1st Quarterly meeting of the NCKLEPG. It will be on January 24th at Smith Center at 1:30 p.m.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman moved, and Commissioner Jeardoe seconded to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

Edwin Splichal, Member

Doug Garman, Member