

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek recorded the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

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

Pastor Craig Roberts, Landmark Church of Belleville, offered morning prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe moved to approve December 18, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$92,135.69.

Mike Nondorf, Weed Director, received his retirement plaque for 22 years of service to Republic County.

Kay Shoemaker, secretary/treasurer for Republic County Development, presented for signature a loan modification agreement for Heartland Gamebirds LLC.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented blueprints of the original placement project of the front steps of the courthouse along with pictures where a portion of a step was removed to evaluate the base under the steps. The commissioners requested that letters be sent to Campbell & Johnson, Kirkham & Michael Engineering firms along with the firm from Lincoln, NE that was suggested by CRS Concrete for interest in planning and replacement of the steps.

Don McChesney, Belleville High Banks Hall of Fame Museum, requested an update on the financial request made in December 2023,

Commissioner Splichal explained that before the end of the commissioner meeting today, the board will act on this request.

Barry Childs, Republic County Housing Program, reported that the housing program has been a success and thanked the commissioners for investing in Republic County through the incentive program. Childs reassured the commissioners that none of the recipients will receive the funds until their project is complete. Childs stated this is a very good program for Republic County and if the county has funds available for the future, he is assured the citizens will utilize it.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, shared an article from the Farm Reports magazine regarding exporting goods from several ports in the United States.

Clerk Marsicek announced that Republic County had received the annual contribution from Next Era in the amount of \$745,758.14.

At 9:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for non-elected personnel exception for 10 minutes to review employee performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners.

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

Gayla Godfrey, County Appraiser, suggested that Republic County create a tower lease hold agreement for the 213 towers. This would place the taxes of the tower at commercial rates and will be invoiced to the High Banks

Wind project at Next Era instead of to the individual landowner. Godfrey explained that is the way it is done in other counties with turbines.

Godfrey requested permission to purchase a county truck to use for reviewing properties for initial review and final review throughout the year. Commissioner Garman explained that the purchase of a truck had already been approved and Ken Robbins was researching through the Governmental surplus lists to find a fitting vehicle. Ken Robbins joined the meeting and announced that he found a truck for the Appraisers to use and has purchased it through the surplus equipment lists. It is a 2015 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 with 93,177 miles. The county equipment reserve fund will be used for the expense.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel for 5 minutes about employee evaluations. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Godfrey. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 3 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:03 a.m., taking no action.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- The County roads needing work from the rains will need more than just gravel applied and are being scheduled for additional upgrades.
- A list of bridges to be inspected during 2024 has been received and scheduled for this summer.
- Robbins explained the employee wage increase spreadsheet.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes about employee evaluations. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners & Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board convened at 11:00 a.m., taking no action.

Patrick Comstock presented a quote from Hoge Concrete to replace the building approaches at the newly purchased county building. The quote is \$12,310 for 18 yards of concrete and labor. The removed concrete will be hauled by the county to be used on other projects.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the quote from Hoge Concrete. A possible reduction in the quote as long as the county hauls the debris to a worksite. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek presented a request to transfer funds from the Wind farm fund to County General in the amount of \$13,900.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the transfer of funds from the Wind farm fund to County General. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to withhold the 2024 annual contribution to the Blair Theater until further notice. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to pay the Road and Bridge Director \$10,000 of the reimbursed funds from NextEra for extra duties performed during the Next Era High Banks Wind project to be paid in 2024. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Following discussion regarding the request of funds for the Belleville High Banks Hall of Fame Museum, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to contribute \$10,000 to the museum from the Wind farm fund to be paid

with the next accounts payable checks. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented an email from the Republic County Hospital requesting in writing the amount of rent that the hospital is to pay monthly for using the lower west part of the Medical Arts building. The consensus of the board is to allow the hospital to pay \$500 per month for the lower part until the entire agreement for the building has been reviewed and updated with new contracts.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the December Juvenile Detention meeting on December 20.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he attended the December Pawnee Mental Health meeting on December 19.

At 11:13 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess in to executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes about employee evaluations. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners.

The board reconvened at 11:23 a.m., taking no action.

At 11:23 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess in to executive session for non-elected personnel for 10 minutes about employee evaluations. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:43 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe moved, and Commissioner Garman seconded to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member