

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 1, 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.

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, 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 March 25 and the Special Called meeting on March 27. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jear DOE read a proclamation received from the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The commissioners so ordered that April be proclaimed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Faye Jones, Health Department Administrator, joined the meeting. Jones and Marsicek explained that the original contract with LockIt Technologies has expired as of April 1st. The policy of LockIt Technology states that the contract will automatically be renewed on the renewal date unless the customer contacts LockIt 60 days prior for changes. Jones reported that the department heads want to remove part of the services as those services should be minimal during this second year. Commissioner Garman called Scott Hardin at LockIt to see if that one-line item could be removed since it was the renewal date. Hardin sent a message later in the morning stating that it is not possible to change any part of the contract at this time. Jones and Marsicek will make sure that in 2025 that the contract is renegotiated to remove the services not needed.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced that the meeting with NextEra was postponed until April 9 at 10:00 a.m.
- Robbins reported that the first phase of training regarding the asset software for the road and bridge department will be a 4-hour session on Tuesday, April 2.
- Due to the wintry weather on March 26, the asphalt training session in Ellsworth County was postponed until April 4.
- Robbins presented the first draft of the Capital equipment plan for 2024. The final copy will be presented next week.

The following permissions to travel were approved by the Commissioners.

- Retha Blecha to attend Sales ratio class in Topeka from April 16 to April 17.
- Gayla Godfrey to attend Orion sales file development in Topeka from April 16 to April 17.
- Gayla Godfrey to attend Kansas County Appraiser annual conference in Hays from June 5 to June 7.
- Gayla Godfrey to attend Personal Property Val & Assessment in Topeka from June 10 to June 13.
- Gayla Godfrey to attend Kansas Property Tax Law class in Wichita from July 30 to August 2.
- Korin Huncovsky to attend 4 educational classes to gain hours toward RMA certification.
 - Fundamentals of Mass appraisal in Wichita from April 29 to May 3.
 - RES/AG Improvement Data Collection in Topeka from May 6 to May 10.
 - Commercial/Industrial Imp Data Collection in Topeka from May 20 to May 24.
 - Kansas Property Tax Law in Wichita from July 30 to August 2.
- Clerk Marsicek to attend Sanborn Academy in Manhattan from April 3 to April 5.
- Clerk Marsicek and Travis Boyer to attend the North Central Kansas County Clerks Spring meeting in Council Grove on April 12.
- Clerk Marsicek and Mary Simmons to attend the Kansas County Clerks and Election Official Association annual meeting in Manhattan from April 30 to May 3.
- Clerk Marsicek to attend the Annual Budget training in Salina on May 9.

Travis Boyer, Deputy Clerk, joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel issues for 5 minutes about employee performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Boyer, and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:00 a.m., taking no action.

Raymond Raney and Sheriff David Cox joined the meeting-

Raney suggested that Republic County approve a service agreement between Republic County and Cottonwood Consulting (Laura Leite) for grant research, grant writing, submission, and administration of grant funds.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to sign the service agreement. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Raney will submit an updated expenditures sheet for the ARPA funds.

Raney has been part of the North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council representing Republic County. Commissioner Garman made a motion to appoint Raymond Raney to officially serve as a member of the North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024, and will expire on December 31, 2025.

Raymond Raney requested permission to attend Kansas Public Sector Cybersecurity Summit and Operational Technology training in Wichita from April 17 to April 18. The commissioners granted permission to travel to the training.

Cox and Raney suggested some ideas about how the armory could be used in the future and urged the commissioners not to make permanent plans too quickly. One suggestion is to remove all the tree stumps and level the fenced in area before using it for storage.

The commissioners suggested that Raney and Cox submit pictures or drawings of their suggestions.

Commissioner Jeardoe announced that an electrician will be coming to review electrical needs at the armory on April 9.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 8, 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