

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners present were Doug Garman and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Melvin Jeardoe was absent. Secretary Susan Aaron recorded the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

Chairman Splichal called the meeting 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 moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Garman moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve February 6, 2023, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$315,122.03 for billbacks to 2022, and \$521,233.48 for 2023.

Assistant EMS Director Jeff Beikmann presented warranty information on the two ambulance bids under consideration. After discussion and comparison of the two ambulances and their warranties, Commissioner Garman moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve the bid from Osage Ambulance. Availability of new ambulances is near the end of 2025, so ordering an ambulance now is prudent.

- \$217,971 2025 Type III Super Warrior Ambulance from Osage Ambulances
- \$244,895 2024 AEV Traumahawk Type III Custom Ambulance from American Response Vehicles

Commissioner Garman announced an invitation to the public for the annual meeting of the Republic County Soil Conservation Board to be held at 6pm on February 23, 2023, in the Cuba Community Hall. To RSVP, contact Brenda Mikesell at the office, 785-527-5573.

During Public Forum Brenda Danielson was present to discuss topics related to wind farms.

Kelvin Blecha, President of the NCK Fair Executive Board, presented bids for a new HVAC system in the fair ground's Commercial Building. After discussion, Commissioner Garman moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to approve the bid from Hood.

- \$37,836 Hood
- \$44,184 Rizek Plumbing & Heating

Susan Aaron's visit with the Board was postponed to when all three commissioners will be present.

Todd Allen, Mayor of Courtland shared a copy of the City of Courtland's February 1, 2023, meeting minutes. The Council approved a resolution approving the Central Valley Ag (CVA) project for which the County Commissioners has issued a Taxable Industrial Revenue Bond to help facilitate CVA's project.

Ken Robbins, Director of the Highway, Transportation and Solid Waste departments and Nathan Craig, Road Supervisor & Bridge Foreman, joined the meeting. Robbins presented the weekly report of concerns and department activities.

- An issue with a windshield being broken from a rock truck load has been addressed. Robbins researched requirements for loads as to whether or not they are required to be covered and presented the information he found on the Kansas Highway Patrol's website and also excerpts from State Laws, Securing loads on vehicles and cargo securement standards.
- District grader operators will be rotated to other districts once a month in order to have a bridge crew.

- Robbins presented for signatures Memorandums of Agreement between Solid Waste and the cities of Courtland and Narka.

At 10:05 a.m. Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting via Zoom. At 10:10 a.m. Commissioner Splichal moved and Commissioner Garman seconded to enter executive session for 50 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss tasks which are to be completed at this step of the Wind Project, specifically two submittals pertaining to the Development Agreement and to the Decommissioning Agreement. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session in person were Commissioners Splichal and Garman, Aaron, Robbins, and Craig, and via Zoom, Attorney Voth. The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m., taking no action.

Representatives from four banks and from RCED joined the meeting.

- Astra Bank – Mike Hadachek
- New Century Bank – Keith Anderson
- Swedish American Bank – Tanner Johnson
- United Bank – Justin Trost
- Jenny Russell – Republic County Economic Development (RCED)

The Commissioner Board asked that a group be formed whose task is write a proposal for a housing program fund and its operation. The group will identify the simplest mechanism for an individual or investor to acquire funds for new construction of a residential structure as quickly as possible. The program will equitably use funds from NextEra to provide housing opportunities. The starting point is to refer to a proposal prepared by Barry Childs, named Republic County Expansion Project (RPEP), which was submitted to the Board in January 2023. Commissioner Garman shared that he knows of approximately 35 new job positions. Garman shared, ‘We have done the work to get job openings, now we need a place for the new employees to sleep’.

Discussion topics included using existing tools such as the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the Revolving Loan Fund, whether to have a loan or grant program, working with grant providers, working with local industries, the program will be available county-wide whether in a city or rural, defining what kind of structures qualify, finding contractors, and that the fund will be both for single family or investment properties. Members of the group should include a representative from each bank in the county, Barry Childs, Jenny Russell (RCED), and possibly realtors.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman moved and Commissioner Splichal seconded to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board will not meet the week of February 20, 2023. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Susan E. Aaron, Commissioner’s Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member