

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Doug Garman, and Melvin Jeardoe. No meeting was held October 23, 2023. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

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

Lay Pastor Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from October 16, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$233,478.55.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development treasurer, presented a letter to Lost Creek Enterprises closing the COVID 19 Emergency Business Stimulus loan.

Commissioner Splichal presented Shoemaker with a plaque for 20 years of service to Republic County.

Samantha Alexander, grant writer, requested a letter of support from the commissioners and a letter stating that the county had funds available for a matching grant.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the letter of support for the grant funds for the front patio and steps of the courthouse. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Travis Boyer, Deputy Clerk, presented the proposed health, dental and vision coverage as requested from the county insurance group. The types of coverage will not change for 2024 are Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) health insurance and Surrency vision. We will be changing to BCBS dental coverage. We will offer a low deductible plan and a high deductible plan. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the suggestion from the insurance group. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented the 3rd quarter totals. Coons reported that the sales tax collected for the Republic County Hospital has increased greatly since the budget estimates for 2023. Coons stated that there will be 13 parcels on the tax sales when the title searches are completed.

Susan Aaron, solid waste administrative assistant, presented the solid waste agreement between Republic County and Narka City for signatures. Aaron announced that there will be a LEPC meeting on November 14 in the Republic County Courthouse.

Codie Van Meter, interested citizen, presented information regarding organizing a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) in Republic County. Van Meter invited the commissioners to attend the first meeting on November 9th at 7:00 pm in the Astra Bank meeting room.

James Banahan, Honorable Mayor of Cuba, informed the commissioners that 20 properties in Cuba have been published as nuisance properties and are needing demolition. Banahan wondered if there were any county funds to assist the city of Cuba with the expense. The City of Cuba needs to replace the asphalt on the main street and the quote received was \$200,000. He asked if the county has any funds available to assist Cuba. The commissioners did not offer any funding at this time. Banahan invited the commissioners to the Christmas Opening in Cuba on November 25.

Clerk Marsicek suggested that the commissioners move their regular meeting for the week of November 13 to Tuesday, November 14 so the commissioners can canvass the ballots from the general election. The meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. The consensus of the board was to approve the change in date and time.

Nathan Craig, Supervisor, presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge, and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 208 fully erected and 117 turbines that are fully energized.
- Craig announced that the Transportation department earned an award from the Department of Transportation in the State of Kansas.
- Commissioner Jeardoe and Craig attended the NCK Solid Waste Regional meeting in Salina on Thursday October 26. This meeting is only held every 5 years. Ken Robbins will present a resolution next week to be voted on in support of the NCK organization membership.

Casey Fraiser, Foley Equipment, presented 2024 calendars and date books as a thank you to Republic County for being a customer.

Levi Whitley and Amy Mullis-Havel, EMS department, updated the commissioners with department information.

- EMS has answered 550 emergency calls of which 94% resulted in transfers to medical facilities.
- EMS employees must renew their certifications yearly before January 1 of next year. There are some employees that wait as long as possible before completing the paperwork and continued education, so Whitley has requested his employees to complete everything by December 1st so everything is submitted before the year end rush.
- There will be two training classes in 2024. The first class will be held January to May.
- There will be a crisis response training held that is a 3-day course taught by outside instructors.
- Whitley reported that all the rescue equipment has a lifetime warrantee.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into an executive session for non-elected personnel exemption for 15 minutes to discuss employee performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Whitley, Mullis-Havel, and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m., taking no action.

The final invoice for applying the sealant to the floor in the commercial building was presented for payment. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$69,790.00 to be paid from the county building fund. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager, presented a voucher to approve the sales tax for the courthouse generator. A tax exemption application will be submitted to the state to be refunded the sales tax.

Raney reported that the Scandia tower antenna has been installed. The radios for the fire districts should be received before the end of 2023 but the new repeater will not be received until after January next year.

Clerk Marsicek presented information for the commissioners to review regarding balancing the number of citizens of each commissioner district. According to K.S.A. 19-204b, the representation of commissioner's districts needs to be as equal as possible. The last time the districts were updated was in 2006. The issue was tabled until further information can be received.

At 11:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for non-elected personnel for 5 minutes to discuss job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:25 a.m., taking no action.

Faye Jones, Health Administrator, presented information from the Health department.

- Health department is busy giving annual vaccinations.

- Currently, COVID shots are on backorder.
- Jones presented permissions to travel for Melissa Miller and Lydia Pacht to attend training in Wichita on November 14 and for Jones to attend training in Beloit on November 8. Both requests were approved.
- Jones announced that Republic County has received a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that can be used by county employees as long as it deals with the strengthening the workforce of Republic County employees.

David Blecha, local realtor, reported that the purchase agreement has been given to the County attorney to review before the commissioners sign.

Blecha asked permission for the City of Belleville to remove the heavy-duty transformer from the armory and move it to Mid-America Trucking business. The commissioners granted permission for the City of Belleville to remove the transformer.

Blecha asked if the county was still accepting bids for the repairs of the front steps. Commissioner Splichal stated that no contract for repairs has been signed.

Clerk Marsicek presented options from the department heads to increase the credit card limits of each department. When the card limits were set up before 2012, the cost of purchases were less. Clerk Marsicek showed the commissioners two suggestions. The first suggestion is to increase all card limits from under \$1,000 to \$5,000. The second suggestion is to increase all card limits from under \$1,000 to \$2,000. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the lower limit suggestion which would increase the total card limits to \$43,5000. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented for review Resolution No. 2023-36, setting the dates of the commission meetings, payroll, holidays, and voucher processing dates for 2024.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-36. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 6, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member