

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Doug Garman, and Melvin Jeardoe. 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Central Christian Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from September 25, 2023. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek reminded the board that on Friday, October 6, at 12:30 p.m. at the 4-H building, the annual employee appreciation meal will be held for the courthouse and Health Department employees.

Sheriff David Cox reported that Republic County Sheriff's Office received recognition from KDOT because they participated in safety programs including seatbelt checks and speed checks.

- Cox just returned from Indiana with a prisoner wanted for theft in Republic County.
- There are 7 inmates being held in our jail.
- Deputy Kade Odell's last day for Republic County was Sept 29. He starts with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation on October 2.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development (RCD), presented two completed loans for lien release,

- Apple One Media
- Hiatt Floor & General cleaning.

Shoemaker announced there is no RCD meeting during October.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to recognize that October is Pro-Life month. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

The commissioners by consensus proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Following discussion regarding the qualifications and contract proposal from Gayla Godfrey, Commissioner Garman made a motion to hire Gayla Godfrey as the Republic County Appraiser pending pre-employment testing and to approve Resolution 2023-34 appointing Gayla as appraiser with a wage of \$66,000 per year. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Gayla Godfrey joined the meeting via phone conference and accepted the position of Republic County Appraiser. Godfrey will start on October 5.

Clerk Marsicek presented a quote from Mass Appraisal Specialists, Inc to perform analysis or aid the appraiser office. Clerk Marsicek is to notify Mass Appraisals that Republic County has hired an appraiser.

Harold Wilber, concerned citizen, asked if Resolution No. 2023-33 for a county building fund was for a new project. Clerk Marsicek stated that the new resolution is a replacement for a resolution establishing the fund that had expired.

Wilber asked the commissioners why they purchased the armory when the county owns several buildings located at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the commercial hall is used about every week or weekend throughout the year and the county did not want to have to move county property each time the commercial hall was rented. Jeardoe also shared that the county did price building a new metal structure, but the cost would have exceeded what was paid for the armory.

Commissioner Splichal called the Jewell County Commissioners to discuss issues regarding the NCK LEPG that both counties belong to.

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the Republic County Commissioners, Jewell County Commissioners-Brent Beck, Keith Roe and Ed Duskie, Jewell County Clerk Carla Waugh and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:50 a.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to sign the voting ballot to remain in the NCKLEPG for the 2023-2024 term and to authorize payment of \$1,500 for the fiscal year. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 177 fully erected turbines.
- Finish grading was completed on 70 RD improvements and a dust control agent was applied to provide a smoother surface.

Attorney Trish Voth, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting via Zoom.

At 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Garman moved to enter into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss issues regarding the building purchase. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session in person were the Commissioners, Robbins, Clerk Marsicek, and via Zoom, Attorney Voth.

The Board reconvened at 10:35 a.m., taking no action.

Josh Skocny and Ben Retter, U.S. Stone representatives, explained the difference in the limestone rock used on the steps and granite which is stronger but also more expensive rock for the front steps. U.S. Stone does not install the stones but manufactures the stones for the contractors. Skocny and Retter reviewed the front step project and will email information to Clerk Marsicek regarding the cost of the stone.

Tommy Kokko, NextEra, shared that the turbines north of Hwy US 36 will go online on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session for Land Acquisition exemption for 15 minutes to finalize purchase agreement. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Ferrell, and Clerk Marsicek.

The Board reconvened at 11:20 a.m., taking no action.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 9, 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