

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 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 Kevin Weston, Zion Evangelical Church in Munden, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the minutes from October 2, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$387,761.38.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, updated the commissioners on events at the EMS station.

- Whitley is applying for a grant for equipment through Duclos.
- On November 8th the Cornerstone Café will be donating a portion of sales as a fundraiser for the Republic County EMS to purchase a "Rescue Ruthy".
- The EMS department was awarded 2 Clinical save awards for saving the lives of a person.
- The EMS department's new computers now use the program 365 because of the need to encrypt emails.
- The EMS crews have responded to 516 calls and 87 transfers.
- Whitley asked permission to purchase battery operated equipment to replace the hydraulic tools currently being used.

At 8:50, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes about employee issues. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Whitley, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., taking no action.

Josh Oakley and Dakota Beals from NextERA introduced themselves as two of 15 employees that will be manning the High Banks windfarm as permanent employees. All employees will have set hours and an emergency crew is available. Their office is located at 3615 US Hwy 36(former Rolling Hills building). The turbines north of US Hwy 36 are now being tested and the red lights will be blinking until all the turbines are online.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested an updated map with the position of the turbines and their number be sent to Emergency Manager. Oakley will supply that to the EMS and the Emergency Manager.

Jimmie Blecha, Mayor of Munden, presented a request for additional ARPA funds to fix a valve on the waterline in the City of Munden.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the additional funds from the ARPA program in the amount of \$6,000. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek announced the final valuation of Republic County is \$96,731,380.

Sheriff David Cox reported that Jax has been busy doing his job. Cox is still accepting applications for jailor and deputy sheriff. There are 7 inmates housed in our jail. Cox invited the commissioner to a drone demonstration at the NCK fairgrounds on Monday, October 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Todd Allen, Mayor of Courtland, reported that the county road applied the overlay on Main Street in Courtland. Central Valley Ag will start the dirt work at their new location once fall harvest is complete.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 179 fully erected turbines.
- The Blattner crews are pulling shoulders and creating crowns in District 4.
- Other crew members assisted the City of Cuba patching areas on Benton Street.
- All of the cold mix and oil has been used.

At 10:14 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes about employee performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Craig.

The board reconvened at 10:24 a.m., taking no action.

Faye Jones, Republic County Health Administrator, shared many activities from her department.

- Flu shots are now available at the Health Department and Flu shot clinics are being scheduled.
- Additional day and time for walk-in clients is Fridays from 7 a.m. to noon.
- Health Department and EMS participated in the walk/bike to school program at both schools in the county.
- The Cornerstone Café donated \$400.00 to the Health Department to aid the remodeling of the lactation room.
- The Knights of Columbus donated \$848.00 to the Health Department to purchase a fetal monitor.
- Jones asked for an increase in the credit card limit permanently to \$2,500 due to increased costs.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the increase in the credit card limit. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

- Jones presented two quotes from Allen Home Remodel & Repair to repair the damaged floors and walls from the sewer backup. Insurance will cover \$4,141.00; a grant will cover \$1,000.00. The balance will come from Capital outlay.
 - Allen's Home Remodel & Repair with 10-year warrantee \$5,954.11.
 - Allen's Home Remodel & Repair with a 7-year warrantee \$5,752.22.

Commissioner Jeardoe approved the quote of \$5,954.11 from Allen Construction. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented an email from Billy Wilkins at NextERA asking for a letter of support for financing from local officials that the project is expected to economically benefit.

The commissioners signed a letter of support for NextERA.

David Blecha and David Erickson joined the meeting to present the inspection reports of the armory.

At 10:50 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition for 15 minutes to review inspection reports. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha, Erickson and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:05 a.m., taking no action.

Blecha announced that Blue Stem Quarry from Lucas, KS reviewed the steps and pavers and said the material was Cottonwood Limestone, a stone that is native to Kansas.

Retha Blecha, Interim Appraiser, updated the board on information from the Appraiser's Office.

- Blecha presented Anna Porters' invoice for August and September for approval.
- Blecha presented a new contract for Porter to assist with the analytics and provide the county market-based estimates of value.
- Blecha announced that the new appraiser started on Thursday, October 5.
- Blecha asked permission to purchase a laptop. Commissioner instructed Blecha to find a laptop that will meet the needs of the appraiser's office.
- Blecha requested permission for Korin Huncovsky and herself to attend Orien training in Topeka from October 23 to 26. Permission was granted.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding job responsibilities. Commissioners Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Blecha and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:55 a.m., taking no action.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 16, 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