

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe, Edwin Splichal, and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes.

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 Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from May 13. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital board meeting at noon.

Dawn Snyder announced that she was appointed as Director of the 12th Judicial District after Wanda Backstrum retired in the fall of 2023.

Snyder, 12th Judicial District, presented the annual budget plan and grant applications for signatures. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the budgets and grant applications. Commissioner Splichal second the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented for signature the agreement with the Fair Amusement Board of the North Central Kansas Free Fair and the Republic County Emergency Medical Service to provide EMS services at all the racing events for 2024.

Whitley announced that this week is National EMS week.

Whitley asked if the auditor had any recommendations for transfer of unencumbered cash for the EMS department. The Commissioners shared that the suggested transfer amounts have been received and will be decided later in the morning.

Sheriff David Cox reported the cost of purchasing 8 individual Tasers and replacement cartridges would cost more than purchasing the 10-year contract. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the purchase of the 10-year contract for Tasers after January 2025. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made the motion unanimous.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced that the Jet Plain road groom was delivered last week.
- Nathan Craig, Max Wickstrum and Kyle Lervold went to Ellsworth County last week to observe the applying of recycled pavement on roads. Craig said it was an amazing process and it should work well in Republic County.
- Robbins asked permission to proceed with the overlay on the blacktop road south of Narka for 8.2 miles by Hall Bros.
- Robbins mentioned that there is a JD grader on an auction that ends next week and wondered if it was possible to purchase it and reduce the 2025 purchases by one grader. If Robbins can purchase the equipment at a reasonable price and he has it in his budget, permission is granted.
- Robbins requested permission to increase the wage scale for a part-time motor grader operator from \$17.10 to \$20.00, since there are no benefits for that position. The commissioner approved change in the wage scale.
- Robbins and Commissioner Jeardoe met with Next Era representatives last week.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss contract negotiations for 10 minutes contract requirements. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins, Craig, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:00 a.m., taking no action.

Darrin Booth, representative from Theel Insurance/Freedom Claims Management, Inc, presented information of what Freedom Claims offers to their clients. The Commissioners requested additional information and an estimated premium for Republic County before any decisions could be approved.

Clerk Marsicek reported that she had visited with Philip Murrow, LEPC Sanitarian, regarding Republic County dropping out of the group as of July 1, 2024. Murrow stated that all the current and historic files of Republic County applications will remain at Smith County. The commissioners advised that Clerk Marsicek contact Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, to request the historic and current records or at least copies for our files.

Following the review of the auditors year-end transfer suggestions, the commissioners requested that Clerk Marsicek prepare three resolutions to approve suggested transfers. Funds receiving transfers will be Special Highway improvements, EMS Special Equipment, and Special Capital Improvement Reserve fund.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to Memorial Day on Monday, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28, 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