

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 5, 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. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting.

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

Pastor Craig Roberts, Landmark Church of Belleville, 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 January 29 with the correction of the quote from Belleville Hometown Lumber for 2 doors at a cost of \$17,792. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

James Doyle and Drew Erkenbrack, Belleville High Banks racing association, discussed many challenges regarding the racetrack and grandstands that need updated. Issues include handicap ramps, wiring for lights, plumbing in the restrooms, fencing and guardrails.

Doyle asked if Republic County could increase the contribution to the racetrack by at least \$5,000. Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the board will review this request and get back to Doyle.

Doyle stated that there are 6 racing events planned for 2024 which will bring many people to Republic County through the summer and early fall.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, shared that all the new AED's have been installed throughout Republic County. These AED's will be tracked with an application on the Tablet at the EMS department. When AED's or their parts need updated or replaced, it will be done promptly.

Gayla Godfrey, Appraiser, requested permission to hire a part-time temporary worker to assist in the office until a full-time employee can be hired. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the temporary employee. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made the motion unanimous.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented the tax collections so far since December 2023, stating the outstanding amount is \$4,686,163.53 or 27.55%.

At 9:40 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding employee performance and wages. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Coons, and Clerk Marsicek.

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

Laura Joy and Dawn Little-Journey, Deputy Treasurer and Motor vehicle clerk, joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:10 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes regarding employee performance and wages. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Joy, Little-Journey, Coons, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Garman made a motion for an additional 10 minutes which Commissioner Splichal seconded. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The board reconvened at 10:30 a.m., taking no action.

Doane Sells, local citizen, announced to the Commissioners that there will be a drive through car show on June 1. The car show could include several hundred cars during a three-hour time span.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- This week crews are replenishing rock stockpiles.
- Robbins explained that the gravel roads are still in bad shape, but they are improving.
- Robbins presented two job descriptions for the commissioners to review for the Noxious Weed employees.
 - Supervisor
 - Sprayer operator/truck driver
- Robbins will be taking the Supervisor applicators training in Manhattan and will be posting openings for the sprayer operator.
- Robbins shared an email that was sent to Next Era regarding the maintenance of the windfarm roads.
- Robbins will meet with Next Era and Kirkham Michael next week and Commissioner Jeardoe will be informed of the date and time so he can attend also.
- The road department mailed out 170 postcards in the past few weeks resulting in a few phone calls interested in applying for positions.

Commissioner Jeardoe shared information from Billy Wilkens regarding the blinking lights. The testing of the lights is an on-going project that takes time. The length of the non-blinking lights will become more as the testing proceeds.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager/Communication Director, presented the current wage scale for his departments.

Raney presented a booklet of projects he feels will enhance Republic County's productivity and open space in the courthouse for expanding other departments. One project is to create a software program to assist with the yearly census and address/residential locations.

Raney shared an updated list of ARPA funds available as of February 5, 2024.

At 11:35 a.m., the meeting was relocated to the armory. Custodian, Patrick Comstock, explained the removal of paneling and flooring that needs to be replaced in the proposed conference/training room. Other suggestions by Comstock would include the removal of the large trees on the southern edge of the property. The commissioners instructed Comstock to contact tree removal companies for quotes to remove the trees.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 12, 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