

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 29, 2021, 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 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the November 23, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Raymond Raney, Danielle Swanson and Justin Ferrell presented their updates.

Ferrell notified the commissioners, that due to an increase in first appearance cases, he will not attend today but will update the commissioners next week.

Raney suggested that Laura Leite be added to the schedule on December 13 to present updates on the use of ARPA funding.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked Swanson what the operation hours are of the health department.

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8-5
- Wednesday 8-6
- Friday 8-Noon

Swanson stated vaccines are available either by appointment or by walk-in on Wednesdays. Republic County is averaging 10-20 new COVID cases a week. Currently, thankfully, there are no hospitalizations of these cases.

Swanson requested an update on the list of recipients that she presented in August to receive a onetime grant distribution for helping with the vaccine PODs and other COVID assistance since January 1, 2021.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the proposed list of onetime distribution of grant funds. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. With reluctance, Commissioner Splichal agreed.

At 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding a Human Resource issue. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Swanson and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:15 a.m., taking no action.

Ken Robbins, Nathan Craig, Max Wickstrum and Stacie Bowen presented updates from the county shop area.

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins updated that the project on Penn Rd between 200 and 210 roads should be completed today, Monday, November 29.
- Robbins shared that the ditch cleaning on Granite Road should be completed by December 3.
- Robbins will present proposals for a skid loader next week to replace the John Deere Skid loader that the lease will expire on December 2.
- Robbins reported that several employees will be taking leave through December but scheduled projects will still be completed.
- Robbins is encouraged by the employees suggested projects to improve the overall roads and bridges in Republic County.

Susan Aaron joined to remind the commissioners there will be several appointed positions that need to be filled by January 1, 2022.

Pawnee Mental Health sent their 2022 annual contract to be approved.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the contract with Pawnee Mental Health. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe abstained since he represents Republic County on the Pawnee board. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek presented for approval Resolution 2021-50, Authorizing Republic County to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program for 2022 for funds to be distributed in January 2023.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-50. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioners discussed the budget prep for 2023. Commissioner Garman suggested that the Commissioners schedule department heads one at a time starting in April instead of waiting until June when the accountant must have an entire proposed budget. This would give the department head and commissioners time to review the actual needs of each department. Commissioners don't want to micro manage the departments but rather understand the future plans each department head is projecting.

Commissioners also suggested that each department head prepare quarterly employee reviews instead of waiting until December. The reviews are not for the Commissioners but solely for the department heads to have additional information available when year-end compensation is considered.

At 11:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Doug Garman – Member