

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jear DOE and Edwin Splichal. Doug Garman was absent. 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.

Lay Pastor Al Urich, American Lutheran Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek announced there was a 2-way tie for the city council position in the City of Republic. Since Commissioner Garman was absent, Commissioner Jear DOE asked Al Urich to fill the third canvass board position. Urich tossed the coin and Cassidy Stenson was determined the winner of the council position.

Clerk Marsicek reported that Commissioner Keith Bramhall from Marshall County and the Public Works director from Marshall County have been invited to the next Republic County meeting on Tuesday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Raymond Raney and Justin Ferrell presented their bi-weekly updates.

Raney reported that there are no additional applications to request funds from the ARPA money. Raney suggested that since the livestock and crops don't need purified water maybe the possibility of Reverse Osmosis (RO) units for residents of Republic County would be a better investment.

Danielle Swanson sent the weekly update of 29 active COVID cases in the last week.

Ferrell will have more information regarding the windfarm project and 30 x 30 resolutions next week.

Jesse Jear DOE and Rusty Jear DOE, concerned citizens, expressed a complaint regarding the grinding of trees and brush on the roads especially when fence is destroyed and debris is thrown into the crops.

Commissioner Jear DOE assured these persons that Ken Robbins will be notified of these concerns and corrective procedures will be modified when grinding trees and brush along the right of way on the roads.

Another concern of the Jear DOE's is the threat to land owners regarding eradicating thistles on land beyond the right of way of the roads when there are many places that the right of way has many thistles that should be sprayed by the county.

Rusty's additional concern is regarding keeping illegal immigrants out of Republic County. Commissioner Jear DOE explained that Republic County cannot suggest who people rent houses to nor who buys residences in Republic County. If a person suspects an illegal action has happened, it should be reported to the sheriff's department to handle.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, presented a proposed wage scale for the EMS department to review before Whitley returns on December 6 to discuss suggested compensation for his employees.

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

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins reported that 2 additional miles have been overlaid on the Courtland blacktop.
- Robbins announced that repair work on the bridge at King-7.2 east of 70 Road will begin today.
- Robbins and Susan Aaron are reviewing the solid waste fees for 2022 and may be suggesting a small increase for residents of Republic County.
- Robbins is planning a tour of other recycling centers in Washington County, Clay County and Jewell County to develop a plan of operation for Republic County in the future.
- Robbins reported that the ditch cleaning near the Jamestown marsh should be completed this week.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported on the complaints received earlier in the meeting regarding the grinding of trees/brush/fence. Robbins was not aware of that particular incident and will discuss that with the employees working in that area.

At 10:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding compensation scales. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners and Robbins.

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

Clerk Marsicek presented a detailed proposal from the Republic County Insurance committee regarding the proposed employee premiums for 2022. Following a review of the proposal, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the proposal to pass on the decrease in health care premium to the employees with the understanding if the premium increases in 2023 the employees share may also increase. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Barry Porter announced the resignation of Morgan Morley as Personal Property and data collector effective December 17. Porter will place an ad to fill this position.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented for signature banking papers to change the name of the main depository for Republic County.

At 11:25 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 23, 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