

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Doug Garman, Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal joining at 10:00 a.m. due to another meeting. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed most of the meeting. Others attending were Casey Frasier and Larry Tebow.

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

Due to the absence early in the morning, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to appoint Retha Blecha as the third canvass board worker. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Deputy Election Clerk Mary Simmons and Clerk Marsicek presented 23 provisional ballots and 2 UACAVA ballots to review and hand count. Ten ballots will not count because the voters of 8 were not registered voters in Republic County and the other 2 voters failed to provide valid identification. Of the 13 ballots left, 9 ballots will all be counted because those voters moved within their cities but did not notify the Clerk's office by updating their voter registration. Regarding the last 4 ballots where the voter moved within Republic County, any like races will count. The 2 UACAVA ballots, ballots that are sent from overseas, are hand counted by the canvass board.

Clerk Marsicek presented a list of the top 10 taxpayers of Republic County for tax year of 2022.

Casey Frasier, Foley Equipment, presented calendars to the commissioners. Frasier stated that all large equipment and some parts have at least 12-month lead. If the county plans on ordering new equipment be prepared to wait.

Beth Ball representing the Republic County Taskforce suggested with the increase of prices, would the commissioners consider raising the limit on the employee Christmas gifts from \$25 to \$50 for part-time employees and from \$50 to \$75 for full-time employees. The taskforce is suggesting gift certificates to restaurants in Republic County.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the suggested increases for the Christmas gifts. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins presented for signature a utility agreement between Republic County and Joe Strnad to install and operate an underground water line under 250 Rd about 817 ft. from Granite Rd.
- Robbins reported the community concern regarding the construction of the windfarm that was filled with Kirkham Michael. All truck drivers need to slow down near residents' home. This issue has been sent to NextEra.
- All the cold patching has been stopped due to the colder temperatures following the completion of the asphalt road from Cuba to K148.
- The highway and weeds department will return to 8-hour days starting November 21.
- Robbins and the road supervisor will have weekly meetings with the HiBanks project manager.

Commissioner Garman requested that Robbins review an issue on a road one mile south of K148 and one mile east of Norway.

Larry Tebow, county citizen, congratulated Commissioner Splichal on his re-election. Tebow also thanked the commissioner for all the time and hard work prior to approving the HiBanks wind farm project.

General discussion regarding the best way to use the contribution funds from NextEra. Some suggestions included:

- Donating to the school districts within Republic County.
- Donating to the Republic County Hospital that serves residents and others in Republic County.
- Donating to the water systems within Republic County.
- Develop a plan to distribute the fire districts fairly.
- Develop a plan to distribute to the Emergency Services by suggestions of equipment that is needed.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director and Assistant, announced that the ambulance department passed a surprise inspection by the State Board of EMS.

Whitley announced that he was appointed as the Rural Representative of the Board of Healthcare Collation.

Beikmann reported that the Osage Company that Republic County orders their Ambulances from visited about the specifications needed for the proposed 2024 purchase. He said the sooner the county places the order the sooner it can be put on the 24-month waiting list.

Beikmann plans to hold an EMT class after the first of the year.

A training session will be held with 2 Butler County Paramedics on the complete use of the Lukas machine.

Whitley asked for the approval of hiring a full-time paramedic to assist with the large number of transfers.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the hiring of a full-time paramedic. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Lewis Novak, Republic County Fire Chief, visited with the Commissioners regarding the best use of the contribution from NextEra windfarm project. Novak had visited with Nathan Craig from Munden/Narka RFD#3 regarding his proposed suggestion. Novak will contact the other fire districts within the footprint of the windfarm project for suggestions. A couple suggestions could be updated communication equipment or bunker gear. Novak will report back to the commissioners at a later time.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the Pawnee Mental Health contribution agreement for 2023 in the amount of \$36,209. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 21, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Doug Garman, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member