

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 11, 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 October 4, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Regular accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$345,795.39. The Paint the County voucher was approved for \$500.00.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting.

Brent Cunningham, Cunningham Cable, presented a request for a broadband initiative project for funding from the ARPA funds. The total project estimate is \$686,000.00 and the request from Republic County is \$400,000.00. The project would give 85% of the residents in Republic County high-speed internet. The balance of the funds would come from NCKCN and Cunningham.

Commissioner Garman asked Cunningham to update the commissioners regarding the Kansas TV stations vs Nebraska TV stations. Ferrell and Cunningham reported the issue of the TV stations is more complicated because the Nielson Ratings are what affects which station each area will receive. Republic County is the only orphan county in North Central Kansas that is forced to have Nebraska stations. Ferrell and Cunningham are trying to contact the Neilson Ratings in order to negotiate Republic County's choice of TV stations.

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

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced the promotion of Max Wickstrum to Road Supervisor and submitted a wage increase of \$0.95 per hour.
- Robbins also announced that JJ Snyder was promoted to road operator to fill Wickstrum's district along with a wage increase of \$0.50 per hour.
- Robbins is working with the Republic County school to offer a job shadow training with a student that wants to become a heavy equipment operator. This job shadow will be for one eight-hour day.
- The new fuel system was installed on Friday, October 8.
- Robbins presented for signatures on a start date change order for the overlay on the Courtland road.
- Republic County has an inspection from the State inspectors of select bridges and a few bridges will need to have the load limits reduced to meet new standards. Robbins explained that these bridges were built to the correct standards but new standards are now enforced.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the terms of two members of the Republic County Hospital board will expire on October 31, 2021. These members are Kevin Milner and Barry Childs.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to reappoint these two persons for an additional 4-year term. Commissioner Garman seconded this motion that was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

At 11:00 a.m., Clerk Marsicek swore into office Cindy S. Coons as County Treasurer.

Kay Shoemaker, treasurer for Republic County Development, presented a voucher for a drawdown on the loan for Tuxies Ten Pin of \$45,000.00. Shoemaker also announced that due to no applications there would not be an RCD meeting in October.

Permission to travel was granted for Sandee Swanson to attend the North Central Kansas Register of Deeds Fall District meeting in Lincoln County on October 15, 2021.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, reported that there have been many transfers. Whitley also announced that the application to hold an AEMT training in Republic County starting in January 2022 was approved.

At 11:55 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 18, 2021, beginning 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