

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020**

The Republic County Commission met in special session on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope, Justin Ferrell as County Attorney, Danielle Swanson as County Health Officer, Sheriff Ron Blad, Deputy Andrew Bates, Cindy Coons County Treasurer and Belleville police Chief Chris Springer observed the meeting.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Republic County's response to Governor Laura Kelly's Executive Order No. 20-52 related to the mandate of using face masks in public.

D. Swanson explained that wearing the face masks protects both the person wearing it and those they come in contact. No masks is 100% effective but not wearing one prevents nothing.

Commissioner Splichal explained that he doesn't want to force anyone to wear a mask but encourages those that want to wear one, to do so.

Resolution No. 2020-36, Use of face masks in Republic County, was presented to the commissioners. The Republic County Commissioners feels it is in the best interest of the community and its safety to not order the wearing of masks in public places, as it could restrict overall productivity and create undue burden upon the citizens of Republic County. Any business, organization, group, or any other entity whether public or private may implement guidelines requiring the wearing of masks at their place of business, office, sponsored activities or other places or events they have direct control over.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-36. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Coons asked if masks will be recommended in the courthouse. Commissioners highly encouraged non-employees to wear masks. If an employee feels more comfortable wearing a mask, they may do so. Several offices have protective shields on the front desks and can socially distance from the public.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 6, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal– Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member