

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES OF SPECIAL SESSION IN
THE BOARD ROOM OF THE COURTHOUSE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in special session on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek-The Belleville Telescope observed the meeting along with 20 other concerned citizens and department heads of the Republic County (list is attached to permanent record).

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioner Jeardoe explained the meeting was to discuss recommendations to hold graduation and other social gatherings following the new outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Republic County and Cloud County that could affect several other counties.

Danielle Swanson explained that the recent confirmed cases in the area have been deemed an "Outbreak" and the KDHE has authorized the testing of every person who was in contact with the confirmed cases starting at 5:00 PM today, June 24, 2020. An estimated 75-150 persons will be tested today with the assistance of the Republic County Health nurses, Republic County Hospital and EMS employees. D. Swanson announced that there could be up to 500 persons quarantined with this outbreak.

Areas of concern are:

- Swimming Pools
- Ball fields
- Races
- Weight training
- Graduations

The commissioners stated that all outdoor activities should be monitored. The swimming pool was up to the city that owns it. The ball fields are under the control of the recreation department through the city. Raymond Raney stated that the races have not decided to proceed or not at this time. All the schools worked with the county Health Officer before opening the weight training programs and they should monitor athletes that use the facilities.

The graduation ceremonies planned for the weekend of June 26 to June 29 where there could be many people is the major concern.

Representatives from the Republic County Hospital voiced their concern with the mass gatherings of graduations, stating that if several employees are exposed to the virus through the testing and patients at hospital, regular services of the hospital would be forced to shut down due to quarantining.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to allow the ceremonies to be held if they are held outside with no restrictions. If the ceremony must be held inside, the limitation of 2 people per graduate will be allowed. Commission Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Randy Paugh, Tibbetts Funeral Home, asked if there would be any restrictions on funerals. Commissioners stated that funerals and church services are exempt from restrictions per the state. The use of social distancing is recommended.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 29, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member