

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, June 2, 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.

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the May 24, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the permission to travel for Sandee Swanson to attend the Register of Deeds Seminar and schooling from June 15 to June 17 in Garden City, Kansas. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented the results of the delinquent tax sale held on May 27. There were 17 parcels sold for a total of \$59,853.00.

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

Ferrell concurred that the delinquent tax sale results were greater than anticipated. All properties were sold and the finalization of the sales will be presented to the judge next week.

Raney announced that Republic County has 70 weather radios to sell to county citizens. Raney reported that he has not received authorized spending regulations in regards to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Raney suggested that Republic County contract with Laura Leite to be the project leader for the ARPA funding.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to hire Laura Leite as project manager of the ARPA funding at the same contract rate as the SPARK project. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Raney reported that there is a position open for a full-time dispatcher.

Roger Lahodny, Belleville resident, asked permission to have the wording of the Veteran Memorial cleaned and stained or remove the engraved stone and replace it with a black inlay to match the Fallen Soldier markers.

The commissioners granted permission for Lahodny to update the Memorial. The Commissioners suggested applying for grant funds to assist with the cost.

Levi Whitley announced that his special training has been moved to Fort Worth, Texas and he will be gone June 7 to June 11.

Barry Porter, County Appraiser, announced that he wants to renew his contract as County Appraiser for 4 years. Porter presented Resolution No. 2021-37, appointment of Barry Porter as Republic County Appraiser for 4 years ending June 30, 2025. Porter also presented an Interlocal agreement and contract between Republic County and Cloud County to share benefits for the shared appraiser through June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-37. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the Interlocal agreement and contract with Cloud County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Correspondence was shared from OCCK regarding the National Dump the Pump Day on Thursday, June 17, 2021 which offers free rides on all services, including CityGo, 81 Connection, KanConnect and regional paratransit.

Kenneth Robbins, Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen presented updates from the county shop area.

- Robbins presented the updated project list and community concerns.
- APAC has rescheduled the repairs to the approaches to the bridges south of Scandia and north/west of Republic to start on June 7.

Commissioner Garman notified Robbins of a concern about the gravel road near the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. It needs gravel especially when it rains.

- Robbins will interview two applicants for operator positions on Thursday.
- Craig reported that the new excavator is waiting for a swivel part before delivery is made.
- Commissioners suggested that while the county is waiting for that part to research quotes for a bucket attachment.

Susan Aaron, County taskforce group, asked if the county will be holding their annual employee appreciation meals in each department this year and if so, the taskforce group will proceed with collecting bids and dates to hold these meals. Commissioners advised Aaron to proceed with the plans for the appreciation meals.

Sergeant Andrew Bates joined the meeting to issues in the jail department.

At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance and wages. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Bates and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:10 a.m. where Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve a shift differential for the night shift jailer of \$1.25 per hour. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Billy Wilkins, Matthew Jones and Alan Anderson, NextEra windfarms, announced the new name for the windfarm project in Republic and Washington Counties. It will be called the Highbanks Project. This replaces the project started in 2016. Additional Met Towers will be installed and new contracts with landowners is progressing. It is estimated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the turbines will be in Republic County and the other $\frac{1}{4}$ will be in

Washington County. Next Era will provide a road use agreement to keep the roads in better condition than they are when the project starts.

Discussion regarding the Solid Waste hearings with the landlords and residents resulted in setting the hearings as follows. Solid Waste hearing for the current residents will be held on August 9 at 11:00 a.m. and the Solid Waste hearing for the Landlords will be held on August 23 at 11:00 a.m.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 7, 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