

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

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jear DOE, Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville Telescope observed 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 Jear DOE made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the January 4, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$323,801.24.

Raymond Raney and Danielle Swanson presented an update regarding purchases with SPARK funding for Republic County and pandemic numbers.

Raney announced that the State has extended finalization of the SPARK funds and that SPARK coordinator Laura Leite and Clerk Marsicek are working on the final numbers.

Swanson presented a graph of all coronavirus cases in Republic County from March 29, 2020 to January 9, 2021. There have been 627 confirmed cases, 11 deaths, and currently have 43 active cases. The second shipment of vaccine should arrive before the end of January. Swanson is anticipating that Phase 2 could be as soon as the end of the month but it is up to the Governor. The plan is to create a Point of Dispensing (POD) area to administer the vaccinations, however, persons need to realize they need to call and make an appointment once the vaccine has been received in the county. The health department will be looking for volunteers to assist with smooth transition in the vaccine POD area.

At 8:55 a.m. the commission moved the meeting to the District Courtroom to attend the swearing in of elected officials by Judge Regine Thompson. Commissioner Doug Garman, Commissioner Melvin Jear DOE, Sheriff David Cox, Register of Deeds Sandee Swanson, County Attorney Justin Ferrell and Clerk Kathleen Marsicek.

At 9:20 a.m., following a short reception, commissioners returned to board room where Commissioner Splichal made a motion to nominate Melvin Jear DOE as chairperson for 2021. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jear DOE made it unanimous.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, and David Strnad, AEMT, were present to request signatures on a letter appointing David Strnad as the person of contact (POC) for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

At 9:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel including the exit interview with Beikmann. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Beikmann and County Attorney Justin Ferrell. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:00 a.m. The commission accepted Beikmann resignation with regrets effective January 17, 2021.

The commissioners asked Strnad if he would consider being the Interim EMS Director until a full-time EMS Director could be hired. Strnad will respond to the request by noon today.

Dan Kelly, Republic County Hospital Administrator, joined the meeting to discuss working relations with the Republic County EMS department regarding transfer requests. Kelly suggested a joint meeting with the Republic County EMS and hospital nursing staff to work out an arrangement when transfers are necessary.

Kelly also asked permission to use the unrented basement of the Medical Arts building to hold a Blood Drive for hospital employees.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to grant permission for the Republic County Hospital to use the Medical Arts building basement for the Blood Drive. Commissioner Garman seconded which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Terry Lambert, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented updates from the county shop area. Mike Hake from Cloud County Landfill joined the meeting to discuss the solid waste agreement.

- Hake requested clarification on the Interlocal solid waste agreement wording regarding the fuel charge. Hake will update the agreement and send a new copy for review.
- Lambert presented for signature two utility agreements:
 - Rural Water District #2 for an underground waterline.
 - Tony R. Strnad for an underground irrigation pipeline with steel encasement
- Bridge work will begin this week on E-2.4.
- Lambert presented a list of 2020 Off-System Sufficiency rated bridges. From the top 10 bridges list the bridge crew is scheduling 6 projects for 2021.
- Road crews are removing trees and bushes from the roadways.
- Lambert met with KDOT in the Belleville location regarding the fence line between the two properties.

Kay Shoemaker, secretary for Republic County Development, announced that no meeting will be held in January. Shoemaker also presented for signature the July 1 to December 31, 2020 state program reports.

Luke Mahin from Republic County Economic Development and Dan Scheffler from Next-Era presented an update on the windfarm project. Scheffler stated there is still a lot of interest in the Republic County /Washington County windmill towers. Additional testing will be done and new metric towers are being installed in different parts of eastern Republic County.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the 2021 appointments and committees for Republic County including Co-County Newspapers-The Belleville Telescope and Courtland Journal. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

David Strnad returned to the meeting and accepted the position of Interim EMS Director.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to accept the appointment of David Strnad as Interim EMS Director until a full-time EMS Director is hired. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion with Commissioner Splichal making it unanimous.

Raney returned to the meeting and presented a listing of new Fair Amusement board members for 2021.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the new fair amusement board. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion with Commissioner Garman making it unanimous.

The commissioners commended Raney and the rest of the fair amusement board for their years of service.

Permission was granted for the Republic County Ministerial Alliance to hold a Walk of Life gathering on the front steps of the courthouse on January 25 at noon to pray for our country, our state and local leaders.

Following a discussion regarding the current trend of coronavirus cases and conversations with concerned citizens of Republic County regarding the Mask Mandate, Commissioner Garman made a motion to rescind the mask mandate effective today, Monday, January 11, 2021 with the stipulation that individuals, private businesses, the courthouse and other county offices reserve the right to require the wearing of masks and citizens need to respect the requirement. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Belinda Robison, nurse from Medical Arts Building, phoned to discuss requested improvements to the Medical Arts Building. Commissioners suggested that the requests be sent to Barry Bottger at the hospital, who manages the rental funds and the contributions from Republic County for upkeep on the Medical Arts building.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the following Resolutions which were seconded by Commissioner Splichal and made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

- Resolution No. 2021-1, Raymond L. Raney a 911 Coordinator
- Resolution No. 2021-2, Raymond L. Raney as half time Director of Communication
- Resolution No. 2021-3, Raymond L. Raney as half time Emergency Manager
- Resolution No. 2021-4, David Holloway as Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services
- Resolution No. 2021-5, Raymond L. Raney as Flood Plain Manager
- Resolution No. 2021-6, Raymond L. Raney as Hazardous Materials Advisor
- Resolution No. 2021-7, Danielle Swanson as Director of the Health Department
- Resolution No. 2021-8, Terry Lambert as Highway Administrator
- Resolution No. 2021-9, Mike Nondorf as Noxious Weed Director
- Resolution No. 2021-10, Raymond L. Raney as Radiological Officer
- Resolution No. 2021-11, Raymond L. Raney as Safety Officer
- Resolution No. 2021-12, Terry Lambert as Solid Waste Director
- Resolution No. 2021-13, Terry Lambert as Transportation Director
- Resolution No. 2021-14, Jeffrey Beikmann as Director of Emergency Medical Services

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will at 8:30 a.m. on January 18, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Doug GARman – Member