

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 8:30 a.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 and commissioner-elect Doug Garman observed the meeting.

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

Pastor Wade Moss, Landmark Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the December 28, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers for SPARK funds were approved in the amount of \$81,147.99.

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

Swanson stated that all the COVID vaccine that the Health Department has received has been administered and awaiting additional doses. The Republic County Hospital has also been administering COVID vaccine. Swanson also announced from March to December 31, 2020 there have been 578 confirmed coronavirus cases in Republic County with 24 currently active and that several persons have called today, Monday, January 4 to schedule virus testing from the recent holiday gatherings.

Raney shared until Laura Leite and Clerk Marsicek completely reviewed the expenditures of the SPARK funds, he does not have anything to report.

The commission discussed the countywide mask mandate and agreed to postpone any changes until at least the January 11th meeting.

Commissioner Jeardoe shared a letter from Kansas Department of Health and Environment that praised the efforts of all the health departments in the state for their work during the Pandemic.

Sheriff Ron Blad explained that he should receive the raise approved for the other elected official before he steps down as sheriff. Blad understands that the new sheriff would not be entitled to the raise for just taking over on January 11.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to increase Sheriff Ron Blad's wage from \$52,300 to \$53,500 for the period of January 1 to January 10. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding unused vacation hours over the 240-hour limit resulted in a motion from Commissioner Jeardoe to allow a 90-day extension (March 31) to use the excess vacation hours but any unused after that date will not be carried forward. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-44 to Vacate Nickel Rd from 280 Rd to 290 Rd per land owners request. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Lambert, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Lambert shared information from Cloud County employee Mike Hakes explaining how Cloud County computes the billing rates on the solid waste delivered to the dumping center and transferred on to the final destination in Topeka. A new interlocal agreement will be drawn up when all parties can agree on the terms.
- A bridge work list is being created from the bridge inspection report.
- Lambert is working on a list of equipment updates for 2021 and the future.
- A regular rotation of recycling trailer maintenance has been established.
- The bridge letting for K-7.2 will be in the spring of 2021.

Overtime rates for employees with the shift differential will be calculated to include the differential rate for the specific employees working the regular night shift.

The Commissioners were advised that the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) funds deadline was December 31 but if a county wants to continue to pay out the remaining hours to employees effected by coronavirus, it is at their decision. The consensus of the board was to continue to offer the remaining FFCRA pay and administrative pay to employees that have not used their allotment.

Raney returned to the meeting to request the purchase of a new computer needed in the communication department. Raney submitted a quote from Nex-Tech for \$2,882.99. Permission was granted to purchase the computer using county equipment reserve funds.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, presented his resignation effective January 17, 2021. He will be moving out of state.

The commissioners accepted with regrets the resignation and requested that Beikmann return next Monday for an exit interview with the commission before finalizing paperwork with HR.

Beikmann reported that Republic County EMS made 536 runs during 2020.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Following the swearing in and reception of the newly elected Republic County officials at 8:30 a.m. on January 11, 2021 the regular meeting will begin.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member