

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 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 Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the April 26, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, announced that the delinquent tax sale will be May 27.

Commissioner Garman requested that Ferrell research laws pertaining to railroads blocking roadways and private access roads.

Danielle Swanson announced that the Johnson and Johnson COVID vaccine is released for distribution. Swanson asked permission to attend the regional preparedness quarterly meeting in Beloit on May 5. Permission was granted.

Raymond Raney reported that no updates on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds have released.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, presented for signature a change of contact with the clearinghouse for insurance claims.

Following a brief discussion regarding fees for services through the EMS department, Resolution No.2021-28 was presented with the new rates effective May 3, 2021.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-28. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

At 9:45 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss attorney-client information relating to HIPPA issues. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Ferrell, Whitley, Beikmann and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the write-offs of accounts that are over 3 years old if every attempt has been made to collect. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Whitley announced the dates he will be at training in Virginia is June 24 to June 29.

Following a review of suggested transfer amounts by the auditor, Resolution No. 2021-32 was presented. Transfer \$75,000 from the EMS General fund to EMS Special Equipment.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-32. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Nathan Craig, Stacey Bowen, Dan Snyder and Susan Aaron presented updates from the county shop area, solid waste/landfill and transportation.

- Aaron presented two grant applications for signature.
- Aaron is getting prices to update the signage on the recycling trailers.
- Snyder reported that the dozer will be at the landfill later this week.
- Craig reported that culvert replacements are underway.
- Craig reported that the truck drivers have been receiving compliments on the extra gravel delivered within the county.
- Bowen announced that one summer employee will start on May 4 and one bus driver will quit later in May.

Following a review of suggested transfer amounts by the auditor, Resolution No. 2021-30 was presented. Transfer \$160,000 from the R&B General fund to Special Hwy Improvement fund.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-30. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Bowen, Craig and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:25 a.m., taking no action.

Luke Mahin, Republic County Economic Development, presented 4 applications for the “Paint the County” project. Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Mahin announced that a total of 10 applications have been approved and there are 11 other applications on the waiting list in case some of the approved applications do not use all the funding available.

Sheriff David Cox presented updates to projects to the sheriff’s departments.

- New door locks are installed.
- The two new Tahoes are in transit.
- Sheriff Cox and Under-Sheriff Eric Brunner completed special training last week.
- Sheriff Cox presented Resolution 2021-35, Inmate phone system commissary revenue. This would allow reimbursement from the inmate’s use of phones to be deposited in the commissary account.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-35. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds (ROD), and Nick Baxa, Deputy ROD, explained many of the projects within the ROD office and explained the requested increases in the 2022 budget.

- Wages for the ROD employees in Republic County are extremely lower than many other counties near the same size.
- The original FIDLAR service agreement has expired and the new rate will be \$7,000 per year.
- There are several old records that have not been scanned and saved in the computer and Record preservation is very important.

Swanson also suggested that the county use some of the ARP funds to scan, digitalize and import into the ROD search program (Laredo and Tapestry.) The commissioners will review the request when the ARP funds and requirements have been received.

Following a review of the suggested transfer amounts by the auditor, Resolution No. 2021-33 and 2021-34 were presented to transfer funds from County General to Capital Building Reserve in the amount of \$50,000 and to County Equipment Reserve in the amount of \$30,000.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-33 and 2021-34. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

At 12:45 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess for lunch until 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

The board reconvened at 1:15 p.m. to interview candidates for R&B Administrator.

At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to interview a candidate for R&B Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, the candidate, Ken Robbins, Bowen, Craig and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

The board reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

At 2:10 p.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to discuss the interview for R&B Administrator. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners, Bowen, Craig and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

At 2:20 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to interview a candidate for R&B Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, the candidate, Gregory Docking, Bowen, Craig and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

The board reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

At 2:55 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to discuss the interview for R&B Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Bowen, Craig and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:05 p.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to discuss the interview for R&B Administrator. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Sheriff Cox, Clerk Marsicek and by phone, candidate Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 20 minutes.

The board reconvened at 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Garman made a motion to offer the position of R&B Administrator to Kenneth Robbins with a starting date of May 17, 2021 at a salary of \$55,000 and benefits pending pre-employment testing. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion that was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 10, 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