

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 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 Al Ulrich, American Lutheran Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioners discussed information received at the National Heritage Area meeting held in Hebron.

Raymond Raney reported that there has not been much activity in Republic County in regards to COVID or American Rescue Plan funding.

Danielle Swanson joined the meeting via phone conference. The Point of Distribution (POD) was canceled on April 8.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that due to a special motion needing to be filed the delinquent tax sale will be held in June.

At 8:50 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney/Client confidential information. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe. Attending the session were the commissioners and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., taking no action.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, joined the meeting. Coons reported that the treasurer office is gearing up for the deadline of the second half taxes due on May 10.

Coons also presented the amount collected for driver's license renewal from 2019 and 2020 in Republic County. The Driver's license office has been closed since mid-March 2020 because the examiner was not allowed to travel to Belleville during COVID. In 2019, the amount of fees collected was \$23,878.05 and in the first 3 months of 2020 it was \$3,755.50. Coons receives many calls each week asking when the driver's license office will reopen in Republic County.

Coons requested permission to attend the Spring meeting for the North Central Kansas Treasurer & Register of Deeds meeting in Mankato on April 23 and Kansas County Treasurer's Association in Salina on June 17 and 18.

The board granted permission to travel to both events.

At 9:35 a.m., the board joined a conference call from the Kansas Department of Motor Vehicle (KDMV) Driver's License Division regarding the reopening of the Belleville Driver's License office. Deann Williams and Ken Selks, KDMV, explained that many smaller county offices have been closed during COVID. The new COVID policy is to have two examiners at an office at all times and this will limit them driving extra miles outside of Cloud County thus saving from paying them driving time.

Williams and Selks stated that the State of Kansas would train any Republic County employee to process renewals but the wages and benefits would have to be covered by the County and not the State. The Commissioners stated that Republic County does not have any employees that need additional duties and that the previous examiner that came on Thursdays was a full-service examiner.

Selks stated that the current Concordia office will be moving and they have signed a new lease for a location in Concordia.

Commissioner Garman presented an offer to save the KDMV funds. Republic County would continue to offer them a rent-free office location, and they could move the whole office to Republic County, saving them the cost of a lease. Williams and Selks will report the concerns and offer to the Director of Motor Vehicle Department and will contact Republic County if there are any changes.

Jimmie Blecha, Mayor of Munden, asked for the status of the letter of support for the grant application to Dane Hansen Foundation. Clerk Marsicek will have it ready by Wednesday.

Luke Mahin, Jenny Russell, Carl Segerhammer and Rebecca Frerking from Republic County Economic Development (RCED) and Farm Bureau Association of Republic County and Washington County joined the meeting.

Mahin presented for approval 5 applications for Paint Republic County using RCED funds. There are funds available to assist with up to 10 applications of \$500.00. The RCED has received a few more but the board of RCED has not approved the preliminary process before presenting to the county commissioners.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Angel Cushing from Lyon County, Beth Salmans from Marshall County and Carolyn Simms from Republic County joined the meeting to present information regarding National Heritage Area.

Cushing presented information relating to her own property that is affected by the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and concerns about other NHA's. Cushing cautioned the commissioners to research all information regarding National Heritage Areas (NHA) before deciding for or against the program. Two big issues are zoning within the county and property taxes. If land becomes owned by an NHA, National Parks do not pay any property taxes and if a county depends on property taxes as income that would become an issue.

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

- Aaron and Snyder informed the board that the second quarter solid waste statements have been mailed and Aaron is working on the 2022 proposed budget and a grant through KDHE Bureau of Waste Management to purchase a recycling trailer so each city will have a trailer. Snyder proposed the purchase of a baler to bale recyclable items. The baler, if purchased, would bale plastics as well as paper, magazines and cardboard.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-27 appointing Daniel Snyder and Susan Aaron as Co-Interim Directors of Solid Waste until May 31, 2021. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

- Craig reported that the bridge crew is about to complete the box culvert north of Cuba and then will replace the culvert near the Belleville Elevator and then two culverts at Diamond and 20 Rd.
- Bowen encourages residents to call the county shop office to request special projects; when requests are given to supervisors or employees working within the county, messages can be lost or forgotten due to the number of calls received and projects that are being worked on.

Commissioner Garman stated that the road near Poplar Grove Cemetery needs to be graded.

Commissioner Garman announced that the County Attorney, Justin Ferrell, will be placing a notice in the local papers in reference to farming the right of way that belongs to the county. Ferrell will also create a letter to send to landowners that do not follow K.S.A. 68-545 regarding farming the right of ways.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Bowen and Craig.

The board reconvened at 11:50 a.m., taking no action.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, reported:

- The Highbanks racing association is reviewing the contract with EMS for 2021 races.
- Effective July 1, 2021, there will be new rates for transfers and EMS services.
- Republic County is planning to hire a PT paramedic for the summer.
- Republic County EMS has only refused a couple transfers in the last few months.
- Whitley is encouraged by the teamwork and morale in his department.

Sheriff David Cox announced that he is placing classified ads for a position opening this summer.

Permission to travel was granted to Sandee Swanson to attend a training session with Fidlar in Kansas City on April 14 and attend the NCK Register of Deeds & Treasurer Spring District meeting in Mankato on April 23.

Clerk Marsicek presented a Proclamation from Pawnee Mental Health proclaiming May as Mental Health Month.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to proclaim the month of May as Mental Health Month in Republic County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 26, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair  
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Edwin Splichal – Member  
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Doug Garman – Member