

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 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 Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the April 5, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$335,673.82 were approved.

Patrick Comstock, courthouse custodian, presented bids for a smaller lawnmower to use around buildings, flagpoles and spray the lawns.

- Belleville Hometown Lumber – 19HP 42” ZTR \$2,909.00
- Prairie Land John Deere – Z530 48” \$4,425.00
- C&W Farm Supply – ZTHD 48” \$4,770.76

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bid from C & W Farm Supply. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that there were many people that attended the informational meeting in Hebron regarding the National Heritage Area (NHA) proposed in the lower 23 counties of South Central Nebraska and the upper 26 counties of North Central Kansas. The scheduled meetings of the NHA are promoted by opposition to the NHA. The commissioners are researching all aspects of the NHA before making any decisions regarding Republic County's participation or non-participation in the program.

Correspondence from OCKK announced a new option to make reservations for Med-A-Van, Regional Paratransit and discounted taxi ride programs can be made online.

Danielle Swanson, Health Department Administrator, reported there were 130 vaccinations administered last week. Since the number of persons requesting vaccines is lower in number, the Point of Distribution (POD) for this week and next week will only supply booster or second vaccines. If someone requests an initial dose, they need to contact the Health department for an appointment.

Raymond Raney stated that no additional information has been received from the American Rescue Plan.

Raney also notified the commissioners that the new Belleville High Banks Race board is working on the racetrack and vouchers will be received to cover repairs.

Raney announced that with the passing of SB 40 in the Senate, all 911 Public communication responders are now listed as emergency responders and are eligible for KP&F retirement benefits.

A State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation from Governor Laura Kelly was presented regarding critical red flag conditions for 102 Kansas counties from March 28 to April 7, 2021.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that the delinquent tax is moving forward for May.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that Ferrell research the use of out-of-county lawyers as court appointed lawyers by Judge Regine Thompson. Ferrell stated that is a common practice but he would contact Judge Thompson to confirm.

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss attorney-client privilege information regarding a County issue. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Swanson, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Garman requested an additional 3 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:13 a.m., taking no action.

Sheriff David Cox reported that he visited with a vendor regarding the possible additional wiring for the courtroom. No bids or decisions have been received regarding the wiring at this time.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, suggested that the commissioners clarify the qualifications for the grant application through the Republic County Economic Development to paint the county. Commissioners will contact Luke Mahin to clarify qualifications.

Al Uphoff, project leader honoring fallen soldiers during wartime, announced that the plaques are being engraved and that Hoge Concrete will be cementing them in the sidewalk the first part of May. There will be a dedication ceremony on May 15th at 2:00 p.m.

Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen presented updates from the county shop area and transportation.

- Bowen reported that the annual engineering for Kansas Department of Transportation has been submitted.
 - Bowen is working on the 2022 budget requests for R&B, Sp. Bridge, Transportation and Fuel Center.
 - Bowen announced a new process for reporting work requests and completed projects.
 - Bowen stated that asphalt overlay on the Courtland road and the bridge project at K-7.2 should begin soon.
 - Bowen shared that the new office door has been installed.
 - Bowen has received 1 application for bus driver.
 - Bowen reported that Republic County has applied for a cost share grant to overlay 260 Rd from Penn to K148.
- Craig reported that the bridge project on 280 Rd is moving along more quickly than estimated and he is impressed with the bridge crew.
 - Craig announced that the next projects will be replacing several culverts. One near the Belleville elevator and two on gravel roads that have mail routes.
 - Craig is pricing out necessary supplies for the next bridge project and comparing prices and materials for culvert made from galvanized materials and aluminum.

Commissioner Splichal inquired about fire damage to Section 28-3-2 in early March. Paul Snapp and Ray Reynolds reported sparks from a brush burn pile on 210 Rd re-ignited in the high wind and jumped Rock Rd to the north and burned pasture, fences and other trees. Bowen and Craig agreed that road crews were cleaning ditches and had followed proper protocol for smothering burned debris prior to the high wind gusts that could have re-ignited coals. County Attorney, Justin Ferrell, will contact our insurance carrier regarding this matter.

Clerk Marsicek presented three resolutions,

- Resolution No. 2021-24 rescinding resolutions 2021-8, 2021-12 and 2021-13 appointing Terry Lambert as Director of R & B, Solid Waste and Transportation.
- Resolution No. 2021-25 appointing Bobby Lawson and Nathan Craig as Co-Interim Directors of R & B.
- Resolution No. 2021-26 appointing Stacey Bowen as Interim Director of Transportation.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Barry Bottger, Republic County Hospital financial controller, requested permission to allow the Medical Arts building to update exam rooms by applying new paint. Permission was granted.

With agenda items complete and the auditors for Lindburg, Vogel and Peirce arriving to audit the 2020 Republic County financial records, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 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