

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 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.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God in Belleville, 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 August 2, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$285,022.05.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Management Director, announced that he doesn't have any update on the COVID status; however, Raney encouraged the commissioners to listen in to the weekly updates on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided at 1:00 p.m. every Thursday. Raney presented via a recording answers to several questions that have been asked during the Thursday webinars.

Raney will present to the department heads information regarding applying for ARPA funds.

Raney asked for suggestions regarding the message board purchased with SPARK funds. If we install it permanently, where do we want to install it? Or do we place it on a trailer? The consensus of the board is to place it on a trailer so it can be moved wherever it is needed.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that he has made contact through email with the lawyers regarding the Kansas verse Nebraska television stations.

Ferrell has an ongoing investigation regarding the bullying incident in Belleville. Ferrell is proposing that the schools have lyceums with students and parents regarding bullying.

Ferrell announced that the loan for the Republic County Hospital regarding equipment is still in the banks' attorney's possession. The Lease/Loan for the building improvements has not been completed.

At 9:25 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss attorney/client information. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Ferrell.

The board reconvened at 9:35 a.m., taking no action.

Emily Benedick, North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), presented Resolution No. 2021-43 to approve participation in and adoption of the solid waste management committee update for the region served by the North Central Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-43. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Sherry Koster, North Central Kansas Sanitarian, presented the semi-annual transaction and activity reports from January 1 to June 30, 2021.

Kenneth Robbins, Nathan Craig and Stacey Bowen presented updates from the county shop area.

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns.
- Robbins presented a draft of a R&B Department page for the county website.
- Robbins reported that he has contacted the fire department chiefs of Belleville, Cuba and the County Fire Chief regarding the fire on March 7. Robbins will review the information received from the chiefs with the County Attorney and develop a report for the commissioners.
- Ethan Smith has completed the grader operator training and Robbins requested a wage increase from \$13.00 to \$14.00 per hour.
- Robbins announced the county received enough cold mix to finish the scheduled projects in 2021.

At 10:25 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personal job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Robbins. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m., taking no action.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe called to order the hearing for delinquent Solid Waste residence accounts. With no residents to protest the delinquent accounts, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the hearing. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Levi Whitley EMS Director, Jeff Beikmann Assistant EMS Director, Sheriff David Cox, Deputy Steve Medina, Deputy Andrew Bates and Danielle Swanson the Health Administrator joined the meeting.

Whitley presented certificates to Medina and Swanson for going beyond the call of duty to save a life at the Courtland Funday, July 30.

Swanson reported that there were 4 new COVID cases last week and all were DELTA strain. Swanson announced that the Health Department has all three types of vaccines available. Citizens need to contact the health department to schedule the vaccination.

Swanson announced that Republic County Health Department is approved to receive and ELC grant in the amount of \$123,000.000. Swanson presented a suggested list of bonuses that could be covered with this grant. The commissioners will review the list and discuss options with Swanson at a later date.

Raney presented for signature a Promulgation of a Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP) with the intention of saving lives and protecting property in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

Susan Aaron, administrative secretary, announced that the Kansas Veteran Administration will return to Republic County every even month.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the Kansas Driver's license renewals will return to Republic County on the First (1) and Third (3) Wednesday of each month but people need to call and make an appointment.

At 12:20 p.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 16, 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