

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Doug Garman was absent. 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 Church of Belleville, offered the 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 August 30, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

An email was received from Pawnee Mental Health Proclaiming September as Recovery Month. The Commissioners support the Proclamation of September as Recovery Month.

Danielle Swanson and Raymond Raney presented biweekly update on COVID status in Republic County.

Swanson reported that the Health Department has been testing over 20 citizens daily. The numbers are on the upswing. Swanson has received only minimal updates regarding the booster COVID shots. The school districts have their own contacts with KDHE and state recommendations regarding testing students and quarantining.

Swanson is planning the FLU Clinics for the end of September.

Swanson presented bids for permanent installation of the message board in front lawn of the Health Department.

- Peterson Electronics \$1,200.00
- Hood Electric \$1,817.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the lower bid. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harold Wilber, concerned citizen, apologized for not attending the 2022 Republic County Budget hearing and wished other Republic County citizens would attend commissioners' meetings and review the proposed budget publications. The Commissioners are responsible for approving expenditures that are necessary to the functioning of Republic County not just the requested wants of each department. Purchases are necessary to improve the infrastructure of roads and bridges and for the betterment of the citizens of the county. Wilber requested information regarding the ARPA funds. What are the plans for utilizing the money? Commissioner Splichal assured Wilber that Republic County is researching projects that will benefit the most citizens of Republic County not just one area. There have been several requests for funding but no authority to release funds has been approved. Wilber commended the commissioners on holding off on purchases but suggested

that they use that same approach when department heads insist that they need to purchase items that may not be a necessity right now.

Raymond requested information regarding the updates to the Republic County Website. Commissioner stated that Susan Aaron, Beth Ball and Barry Porter are the authorized persons to update the website. Raney will contact that group to post information regarding the ARPA funds available for Republic County to meet the requirements to use the funds. Raney also shared that Levi Whitley will present a request for ARPA funds.

Raney announced that a full-time employee will be leaving September 30 and a replacement needs to be hired.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, reported that first appearances will occur this week regarding the juveniles in the bullying issue this summer. Ferrell is working with Jim Girard regarding the title work on the hospital loans. Ferrell also noted that additional information has been submitted to KCAMP for another review of the fire damage last spring.

Ken Robbins, Director of Highway, Transportation & Solid Waste, Nathan Craig, Highway Department Supervisor, and Stacey Bowen, Transportation, presented their weekly reports.

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns report.
- Robbins announced that Republic County's application for Off-System Bridge program project for X-19.1 structure has been approved for the year 2023.
- Road crews are blading district #2 until a regular full-time operator is trained.
- The new fuel center system is scheduled to be installed September 20 and Robbins is proposing the purchase of one new dispenser a year until all the dispensers are updated.
- Robbins will be contacting the patching material vendor for updates on needed material.
- Robbins reported to update on the overlay for the Courtland road at this time.
- Robbins will schedule Oak Road between 50 and 60 Rd for regrade in prep for gravel after fall harvest.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS, presented an application to request ARPA funds to purchase ZVENT portable ventilators for the ambulances. The cost for one is \$20,771.00. Commissioner Splichal suggested also that EMS apply to the Dane Hansen Foundation. The Hansen Foundation has been a great supporter of medical equipment in the past.

Whitley and Beikmann also explained their concern with the construction plans at the hospital for the removal of the enclosed ambulance bay. Many patients would be exposed to adverse conditions if the enclosed area is opened to a canopy area. Whitley and Beikmann requested permission to join the commissioners at the next Republic County hospital board meeting to explain their concerns.

Kay Shoemaker, Keith Anderson, Tanner Johnson and Mike Hadachek joined via, phone representing Republic County Development (RCD) and requested an executive session with the commissioners.

At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss confidential data regarding financial affairs and loan information. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Shoemaker, Johnson, Anderson, Hadachek and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

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

Shoemaker announced since no applications have been received therefore no RCD meeting will be held in September.

Correspondence was shared from the Kansas Department of Revenue announcing that Republic County Appraiser, Barry Porter, has met the statistical performance standards established for both the commercial/industrial and residential classes of property. The commissioners commend Porter and his department on a job well done.

At 11:55 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. The Commissioners will proceed on a county tour in the afternoon with Road Administrator, Kenneth Robbins.

ATTESTED: _____

Kathleen L Marsicek
Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____

Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

Edwin Splichal, Member

Doug Garman, Member