

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 17, 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 Sang Hak Lee, United Methodist Church of 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 May 10, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Permission to use the courthouse square by the Belleville Chamber and Mainstreet was approved for the annual Farmer's Market starting May 29 and ending September 25.

Permission to use the courthouse square by the Belleville Chamber and Mainstreet was approved for the annual Cruise-In on June 18 and June 19.

Raymond Raney and Danielle Swanson presented updates.

- Raney announced that there is an opening for a dispatcher.
- Raney relayed information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Funding should be received in the near future. The specific requirements as to what can be purchased has not been clearly explained but the funds must be used by December 31, 2026. There will be quarterly reports required by the Federal government not the state of Kansas as the SPARK funds were.
- Swanson shared that citizens are using the walk-in policy to receive the COVID vaccine.
- Swanson also stated that beginning June 1, the Health Department will be open to the public on Friday mornings.
- Swanson has offered the position of bookkeeper/billing clerk to a candidate pending pre-employment screening.

At 9:17 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 8 minutes to discuss non-elected employee's job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 9:25 a.m. no action was taken.

Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Executive Director, presented the 2020 annual report and asked that the commissioners consider continuing to contribute to Pawnee Mental Health in 2022. Cole suggested a 6% increase or \$2,085.94. Cole understands government funding and asked if Republic County would at least commit to the same amount as 2021 which is \$35,154.00. The commissioners will consider the request while they are planning the 2022 Republic County budget.

Sheriff David Cox joined the meeting to discuss services received from Pawnee Mental Health in the past and asked how services in the future could be improved. Sheriff Cox's main concern is the residents of Republic County. Pawnee Mental Health and the sheriff's department need to offer the best services possible. Cole will schedule a meeting with the Pawnee Mental Health substance abuse team leader, Cole and Sheriff Cox.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented for signature the agreement between the EMS department and Belleville High Banks board for services during the 2022 race season.

Whitley reported that there have been a variety of training sessions with the Republic County Hospital employees. Whitley is scheduling CPR trainings with several groups in Republic County. Whitley is working on a wage progression chart.

Nathan Craig, Stacey Bowen, Dan Snyder and Susan Aaron presented updates from the county shop area, solid waste/landfill and transportation. Kenneth Robbins, new R&B Administrator, attended the meeting to observe the process.

- Snyder reported that he is getting projects completed with the dozer.
- Aaron is working on a grant for Emergency Management and the annual Landfill permit renewal. Aaron is also researching used recycle trailers. She has received a quote from Apple One Media to replace the signs on two recycling trailers.
- Craig reported that APAC is scheduled to work on the bridge approaches south of Scandia and north of Republic later this week or the first of next week. The county will supply persons to flag traffic and trucks to haul off millings.
- The bridge crew replaced 2 culverts last week. Craig will be ordering additional culverts.
- The mowers are mowing the roadways as quickly as possible especially near the cemeteries.
- Craig reported that a plank was replaced on a bridge at 130 Rd and 140 Rd on Xavier.
- Bowen presented an agreement for signature between the Kansas Bostwick District #2 and Republic County to install an irrigation pipeline under the intersection of Marble Road and 60 Road.
- Bowen announced the hiring of Becky Craig as part-time bus driver starting at \$12.35 per hour.
- Bowen reported there are still several openings in the road and bridge department.

Commissioner Garman and Aaron passed on compliments to the road graders and truck drivers for their work in the past few weeks.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig, Bowen, Robbins and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m. no action was taken.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to remove the Kiosk machines from the basement floor and the first floor of the courthouse. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Sheila Nelson-Stout, Susan Sprague, Pat Walerius and Kendra Krier all from OCCK joined the meeting and presented the annual report from OCCK.

- OCCK provides an array of services to Republic County by offering resources so citizens can be independent and remain in their own home.
- Over the past 5 years, the number of people receiving services from OCCK in Republic County has increased from 78 to 127.
- OCCK is requesting a 3% or \$725 increase in funding for 2022. The commissioners will consider the request when they are preparing the 2022 Republic County budget.

Cindy Coons, Republic County Treasurer, presented the 2022 budget request for the Treasurer Department.

At 11:40 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected employee job performance and wage increases. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Treasurer Coons.

The board reconvened at 11:50 a.m. no action was taken.

Kris Kling, District Court Clerk, joined by phone to discuss changes in the courtroom. Only one quote has been received to install additional electrical outlets to support the additional electronic equipment throughout the courtroom. By the procurement resolution, there needs to be two quotes before a decision can be approved. Clerk Marsicek will supply Kling with the quote to deliver to the Judges that use the courtroom so additional vendors can be contacted.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 24, 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