

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 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 June 7, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Sheriff David Cox announced that the two new vehicles are being detailed and will soon be ready for use. Deputy Shawn Sprayberry has completed his law enforcement training. Sheriff Cox suggested that one new vehicle be proposed in the budget each year for the sheriff's department.

Johnny Williams and Joanna McDanel, concerned citizens, expressed their lack of approval for being taxed for solid waste fee. Williams stated that they recycle or burn all their waste product. McDanel stated that when they lived in Osborne County it was only \$60 a year and in Republic County it is \$106. Susan Aaron, secretary for the Solid Waste Department, explained the fees and how the fees are broken out for residences, businesses, churches and schools. Aaron also explained that the county has discussed possible future plans of developing a recycling center.

Commissioner Jeardoe explained that the solid waste fees were the result of a state mandate that requires counties to provide permanent storage for trash, either by building their own or partnering with other counties. The cost from the transfer stations was charged to the counties. Counties enacted the Solid Waste fees to share the cost with residences, businesses, churches and schools.

Levy Whitley, EMS Director, announced that he is sending two EMTs to a special cadaver class. Whitley also stated that Republic County will hold an extrication training on the fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 17.

Whitley informed the commissioners that a representative from KP&F visited with the EMS staff in regards to changing from KPERS to KP&F.

Whitley also presented a proposed Republic County EMS Pay Scale as requested by the commissioners.

Permission to travel was granted for Susan Aaron and Raymond Raney to attend Tech Edge by Nex-Tech at the Tony's Pizza Event Center in Salina on June 24.

Permission was granted to the Belleville City Library to use the courtyard for the summer reading program.

Kris Kling, District Court Clerk, joined via phone conference to discuss a quote from Hood Heating Air Plumbing Electric for the additional permanent electrical fixtures and outlets. Kling will arrange a meeting with everyone involved in the updating of the courtroom on Monday, June 28.

Neely Kohmetscher, Honorable Mayor of Courtland, stated that she has met with Ken Robbins and enjoyed the visit. The City of Courtland will repair the waterline under the street and agrees to cover the cost of the additional asphalt on the street through the town. Kohmetscher suggested that Republic County use some of the American Rescue Plan funds to assist towns with housing and broadband expansion throughout the county.

Eric Johnson, Campbell and Johnson Engineering, reported that the front steps and the back sidewalk that was replaced in 2004 with the native limestone in fact needs to be replaced but the Kansas Historical Society needs to come to Belleville and evaluate the options so the courthouse can stay on the list of National Historical buildings. Clerk Marsicek will contact the Kansas Historical Society to set up an appointment to evaluate the issues.

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

- Robbins presented his weekly report and community concerns.
- Robbins said that the metal roofing and siding have been completed on the new shop building.
- Robbins relayed that his department is short on summer help and he has made offers of employment for two full-time persons pending pre-employment testing.
- Robbins will contact the Republic County Attorney on the status of the letters to citizens concerning noxious weeds and farming on the right of way.
- Robbins announced that the bridge approaches south of Scandia and west of Republic have been fixed.
- Bowen announced that September 2 has been set for the employee appreciation meal.

The rest of the morning was used to review budget requests.

At 12:35 p.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn but to come back on Tuesday, morning at 8:00 a.m. to finalize the information to be sent to the CPA to complete the preliminary budget for Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 21, 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