

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek, the Belleville Telescope observed parts of the meeting. Ryan Kriegshauser, Carla Grund and Jon Ungerer observed the canvassing of ballots.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Lay Pastor Al Urich, American Lutheran Church of Belleville, offered 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 3, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$167,003.30.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to appoint Retha Blecha to fill in for Commissioner Bergstrom to canvass the ballots from the 2020 Republic County Primary Election. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Beth Ball, Deputy Election Clerk, presented 29 provisional ballots for review. Three of the ballots were received from persons that had already voted in a polling place. There were five ballots that the voters were not registered prior to July 14, but will be for the General Election in November. The remaining 21 ballots were opened and tallied.

The final tallied numbers will be sent to the Secretary of State and certificates mailed to the winners of the local elections.

Danielle Swanson and Raymond Raney updated the commission in regards to their departments, Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) and the COVID-19 in Republic County.

- Raymond shared that the project leader, Laura Leite, has received invoices for reimbursement of COVID-19 expenditures totaling over \$100,000. Leite is working on the direct fund plan and should have a draft ready for review by Friday, August 14. Suggested items for the direct plan need to be submitted to Leite as soon as possible. Two known costs are wages for the project leader and the cost for the auditor to audit the funds in December. Other suggestions include hand free faucets and toilets in the courthouse, temperature Kiosks and hazard pay for employees in front line contact with COVID patients.
- Danielle stated that no additional cases have been confirmed and currently no one is hospitalized from Republic County with Covid-19 symptoms.
- Swanson had one nurse apply for her open position and will notify the commissioners if that candidate accepts the offer.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director, announced that ambulance #4 has been advertised on Purple Wave and the final date to bid on the ambulance is September 1.

Randy Thayer, Honorable Mayor of Republic, announced that the City of Republic is functioning well.

Thayer also requested that the road supervisor contact him regarding road issues south of Republic. When it rains, water runs over two roads. One issue is on Hickory Rd and the other issue is on Granite Rd.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe called to order the 2021 Republic County budget hearing. At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the proposed 2021 Republic County budget and to close the hearing. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded. Motion carried.

Bobby Lawson, Nathan Craig and Dan Snyder, from road and bridge and solid waste departments, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Craig stated that all the parts to fix the dump truck are at the county shop.
- Lawson stated that the 1998 Peterbilt has been sent to Concordia for repairs.
- Lawson announced that all three mowers are in operation throughout the county.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that either Bobby or Nathan contact Randy Thayer regarding road issues in the Republic area. Commissioner Jeardoe requested a report on bridges and culverts throughout the county. Craig stated that there are no new closures of bridges but there are some areas that need new tubes installed.

- Snyder announced that there are no issues at the land fill or with the recycling trailers.

Susan Aaron, Solid Waste administrative assistant, presented the solid waste delinquent list for approval in the amount of \$7,798.86.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Splichal opened the Solid Waste hearing for the current residents. Since there weren't any protests to the delinquent list of users, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the list and apply the outstanding fees on the next tax roll. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess for lunch and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to interview candidates for Road and Bridge Administrator, Solid Waste Director and Transportation Director. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Joining the meeting were Nathan Craig, Bobby Lawson, Stacey Bowen by phone and Commissioner Bergstrom by phone.

At 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes for non-elected personnel to interview candidate for Road and Bridge Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe

seconded. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig, Lawson, Bowen, Bergstrom, Terry Lambert and Clerk Marsicek.

Board reconvened at 1:35 p.m. taking no action.

At 1:45 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel to interview candidate for Road and Bridge Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig, Lawson, Bowen, Graig Anderson and Clerk Marsicek.

Board reconvened at 2:05 p.m. taking no action.

At 2:25 p.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel to interview candidate for Road and Bridge Administrator. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig, Lawson, Matthew Peters and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m. taking no action.

Following general discussion regarding the candidates, a decision was tabled until Monday, August 17, 2020.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 2:50 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal– Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member