

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 8:30 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 from the Belleville Telescope, Danielle Swanson, Justin Ferrell, Jeff Beikmann, Al Urich joined by Zoom. Brian McCartney, Brent Martin, Dan Kelly, Steve Jonas and Dawn Kasl attended in person.

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

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, 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 November 9, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented two bids for the hands-free toilets and faucets throughout the courthouse.

- Rizek Plumbing and heating \$71,088.00
- Hood, Plumbing and Heating \$26,884.00

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bid from Hood, Plumbing and Heating. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe will contact Hood to order needed parts.

Representatives from the Republic County Hospital, USD 426 and USD 109, expressed their concerns with the recent surge in COVID cases in Republic County and sought action by the commissioners.

Dan Kelly, new Republic County Hospital CEO, introduced himself to group and voiced his appreciation for the work of the commissioners to protect the health and well being of the citizens of Republic County. Kelly stated residents need to help each other by staying at home if sick and wear protective devices when out in public to keep the virus from spreading. The research facilities for a vaccine are working diligently to provide a vaccine in a timely manner.

Kasl announced that since November 2 the number of cases has doubled and the hospital is concerned about capacity for patients. People are gathering in large numbers and attending functions, so they are sharing the virus. The two areas that are not showing a large increase in cases are the schools and the medical staff. We need to stress the use of facial coverings and social distancing. Kasl also stated that testing supplies are getting lower.

Swanson announced that at this time the Health Department is minimally staffed and that the hospital nurses have been helping with testing and protocol with cases. In comparison of per capita the percentage of active cases in Republic County is equal to Saline County.

The commissioners will review all these issues and will make a stand before close of this meeting.

Sheriff-Elect David Cox presented bids for two vehicles.

- Melton Motor #1 \$33,989.85 after trade-in
- Melton Motor #2 \$33,804.85 after trade-in
- General Services Administration (GSA) for Law Enforcement \$35,743.86 each and NO trade-in allowed

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to accept the bids from Melton Motor with the trade-in of two vehicles. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Arlene Clayton, concerned citizen, reported that the gravel road beside Dollar General is not safe with the washboards.

Terry Lambert, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented updates from the county shop area.

- The defensive driving class has been postponed due to COVID.
- Lambert presented quotes for a grader:
 - Murphy Tractor \$264,890
 - Ziegler \$243,960
 - Foley Equipment \$193,000 without trade-in
 - Foley Equipment \$125,000 with trade-in

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to accept the bid from Foley with trade-in. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- APAC has rescheduled work on the approaches to the bridge south of Scandia starting on November 17, 2020.
- Prairieland Equipment will deliver a skid loader for test use.
- Lambert stated that the 3 old computers have been reset to factory settings. How can they be disposed of? Clerk Marsicek stated that they need to be advertised for sale. Which can be done anytime.
- Lambert suggested some building updates at the county shop area.

Clerk Marsicek presented 6 township elected positions needing tie breaking to decide the winner.

- Lincoln Township Treasurer
- Lincoln Township Trustee
- White Rock Township Trustee
- Big Bend Township Treasurer
- Beaver Township Trustee
- Richland Township Treasurer

Certificates will be mailed to the winners.

Commissioners discussed options to assist with the increase in COVID cases in Republic County. It was decided to act only in regards to county buildings with a mask mandate. However, Commissioners highly suggest that all persons wear face coverings when in public but will not mandate it.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion effective this 16th day of November, 2020, the general public and all county employees when entering or conducting business in the Republic County Courthouse or any other county owned property or building must wear a mask or facial covering at all times unless employee is alone at their desk. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented for approval Resolution No. 2020-45, to approve the participation in and adoption of the North Central Kansas Solid Waste Management plan.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Raymond Raney announced that Laura Leite was compiling an amended request to use SPARK funds and that a recap of expenditures should be available later this week.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners and Raney.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 23, 2020, 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

Marvin Bergstrom – Member