

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 24, 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 Jacob Rice, Central Christian Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the May 17, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$284,207.70.

Two commissioners will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

Luke Mahin, Republic County Economic Development, presented three applications for approval for the "Paint the County" program.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the applications with the understanding they will be placed on a waiting list when or if grant money is available. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2021-36 supporting the Rural Opportunity Zone grants for 2021.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-36. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Al Uphoff thanked the commissioners for allowing the plaques for the Roll call of Fallen soldiers to be installed. Senator Elaine Bowers was the guest speaker at the dedication.

Adam Robertson, Honorable Mayor of Belleville, and Adam Anderson, Belleville City Manager, presented updates on projects in Belleville.

- The swimming pool will open on Saturday May 29 for the 2021 summer season.
- Still working on the water issue, testing the water quarterly.
- The city council is concerned about the need for more housing in Belleville to draw new families to Belleville.
- The council continues to develop measures to improve the buildings on mainstreet.

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

- Robbins presented a list of community concerns that will be updated weekly.
- Robbins presented a chain of command chart of employees under his leadership.
- Trusses have been installed on the new building at the county shop area.
- Craig stated that the bridge crew is replacing several culverts before the large bridge project is scheduled.

Commissioner Jeardoe explained concerns from citizens in regards to fields of weeds and thistles. Robbins will notify Mike Nondorf of the issue. Also, Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Robbins contact County Attorney Justin Ferrell to send a letter to the landowner.

- Bowen announced that one person has applied for an operator position. A candidate is interviewing to discuss the possibility of a part-time bus driver and laborer for road and bridge.

Commissioner Garman suggested that someone contact Jewell County road department in regards to the blacktop area 1.5 miles south of the Hardy bridge.

- Discussion about qualifying items purchased as safety equipment for specific employees and safety equipment available for all road and bridge employees needs to be reviewed and separated. A new fund number will be established to track these expenses in 2022.

Tim Garman, Courtland City councilman, shared a concern of the citizens of Courtland that several persons seem to be driving in excess of the speed limit coming into Courtland and asked if the sheriff's department could patrol that area more frequently.

Justin Ferrell, County Attorney, joined the meeting to update the commission in regards to rental contracts with physicians at the Medical Arts building, letters he will send to farmers relating to farming the right of way and noxious weeds violations. Ferrell also suggested that the commissioners set reserves on some properties that will be sold on the delinquent tax sale.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve reserve limits on some of the properties on the tax sale. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the monthly meeting of the Juvenile Board on May 19.

Commissioner Jeardoe announced that he will be attending the monthly Pawnee Mental Health meeting on May 25.

Danielle Swanson and Brynn Alexander, Republic County Health Department joined the meeting.

Dr. Andy Walker requested clarification for the letter he received regarding his duties as Republic County Medical Director for the Health Department.

Commissioner Jeardoe stated that the issue was in regards to standing orders and testing for clients at the health department. Dr. Walker stated there was a misunderstanding about who could sign certain orders.

Dr. Walker voiced concern in regards to how the pandemic was handled and programs not offered by the current health department. Dr. Walker suggested that some of those programs be reinstated with help of staff from the Medical Clinic.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel in regards to job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion.

Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Dr. Walker,

Swanson, Alexander, County Attorney Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

The board reconvened at 12:10 p.m., taking no action.

Susan Aaron, Emergency Management administrative assistant, presented information from Raymond Raney in regards to Governor Laura Kelley's veto on SB 273. This bill would violate federal rules for the use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds which prevents the state from placing conditions or requirements on local government's use of said funds.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Due to Memorial Day and schedule conflicts, the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2, 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