

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, January 18, 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 the Belleville Telescope observed the meeting.

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

Pastor Robert Frasier, Presbyterian Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. The motion was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Raymond Raney reported that he and Danielle Swanson have a location to hold the Point of Dispensing (POD) of the COVID vaccine once it is received. Per the Republic County Facebook page, the current number of positive test cases in Republic County since March 2020 is 636 with 34 currently active cases.

Raney presented SPARK funding sheets to commissioners to review.

Commissioner Garman asked if it was possible to hold COVID vaccine clinics like there is Flue vaccine clinics in each of towns in the county. Clerk Marsicek will pass that information onto the Health Administrator Swanson.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-15, the removal of the mask mandate in Republic County effective January 11, 2021 with the stipulation that individuals, private businesses, the courthouse and other county offices reserve the right to require the wearing of masks and citizens need to respect the requirement. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-16 to Rescind Resolution No. 2021-14 appointing Jeff Beikmann as EMS Director and approve Resolution No. 2021-17 appointing David Strnad as EMS Interim Director. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioners signed a letter to the Kansas Board of EMS stating the change of command at Republic County EMS.

Sheriff David Cox announced that there was a break-in at the county shop over the weekend.

Sheriff Cox requested permission to replace the shower units in the jail. This issue was tabled until the January 25th, 2021 meeting.

Tony Strnad, business owner in Republic County, requested the need for improving the road conditions on 70 Rd south of US Highway 36 to Nesika. Strnad is suggesting that the road be changed to an asphalt or concrete road to handle the large amount of truck traffic that travels that road currently and additional truck traffic to the projected new business being built on that road.

The commissioners agree that the road needs to be improved and will contact the road administrator to get a projected cost to meet the needs of travel.

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

- Lambert announced that there was a break-in at the county shop over the weekend. Multiple items were taken and damage to the office door and safe occurred.
- Lambert will advertise for an equipment operator to replace a person leaving on January 26.
- Lambert will advertise for a part-time bus driver.
- Road crews are removing trees and cleaning ditches.
- The crane training class is being held this week at the North Central Fair grounds.
- Lambert will create a cost to update 70 Rd south of US 36 to Nesika.

Commissioner signed a lease agreement between Tony Strnad and Republic County to use the omni-directional antenna tower located at Section 1, Township 2 and Range 3 for 2021.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the only bid received, Paul’s Tree Care, in the amount of \$2,400 to remove one tree and stump near the storage shed on the north side of the courtyard. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

Raymond Raney returned to meeting and presented a breakdown of 2020 Dispatch calls totaling 11,344. Approximately 1/3 of the calls were for the City of Belleville and 2/3 of the calls were for the rest of Republic County.

At 11:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance and wages. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commission Garman. Attending the session were the commissioners and Raney. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:40 a.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will at 8:30 a.m. on January 25, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Doug Garman – Member