

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal and Doug Garman. Melvin Jeardoe was absent. 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 Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. for Since there was no meeting the week of July 19, there are no minutes to approve.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$466,726.20.

Mike Hadachek from Astra Bank and County Attorney, Justin Ferrell presented updates on the loan/lease requests for equipment and construction for the Republic County Hospital. There will be two separate loans, one for equipment and the other one for the construction. This information will be presented at the Republic County Hospital board meeting this afternoon, July 26, 2021.

Danielle Swanson, Health Administrator, reported that Republic County has reported a few new cases of COVID-19 in the last two weeks. The state requires that test samples that are positive be sent to Topeka for further testing as to what strain. Swanson also shared that the Health Department is offering all the regular services that were offered before the pandemic started.

Raymond Raney presented to commissioners a procedure chart related to requesting funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Raney will present this information at the next department head meeting. Raney also announced that the Republic County Hospital will receive additional funding because they are a critical access hospital but the total amount is not known at this time.

Raney presented for approval the policy and procedure for the Communication Center defining the shift differential compensation for employees working hours between 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

The consensus of the board was to approve the new policy and procedure for the communication center.

Casey Fraser, Foley Equipment, delivered a cap to each commissioner and thanked Republic County for their business with Foley Equipment.

Permission was granted to the Belleville Chamber & Mainstreet to hold the annual Poker walk around the courthouse square on Friday, August 6, 2021.

Clerk Marsicek presented 4 resolutions.

- Resolution No. 2021-39 to rescind Resolution No. 2021-25 appointing Bobby Lawson and Nathan Craig as Co-Interim Directors of R&B.
- Resolution No. 2021-40 to rescind Resolution No. 2021-26 appointing Stacey Bowen as Interim Director of Transportation.
- Resolution No. 2021-41 to rescind Resolution No. 2021-27 appointing Daniel Snyder and Susan Aaron as Co-Interim Directors of Solid Waste.
- Resolution No. 2021-42 to appoint Kenneth Robbins as Director of R&B, Transportation and Solid Waste.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve all 4 resolutions. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff David Cox reported that he has applied through our Republic County ARPA committee for funds to purchase a “DIGI-TICKET” system for the Sheriff’s officers. This system does meet the requirements set by the government as qualifying purchase. Commissioner Garman agrees that the equipment is a good idea and needs to be purchased but the consensus of the board is not to purchase anything yet from the ARPA funds. Garman would like to visit with other citizens about projects before any applications are approved. Funding for this system could be purchased with funds from the County Equipment reserve if it needs to be order immediately.

Ken Robbins, Stacey Bowen and Susan Aaron presented updates from the county shop area, solid waste and transportation.

- Aaron presented for signatures two Solid Waste agreements.
 - City of Cuba
 - City of Republic
- Robbins presented the weekly report of community concerns and progress of projects.
- Robbins mentioned that one grader is in the shop for repairs.
- Robbins is organizing a training session for his employees to develop more uniformity and to share best practices with other co-workers.
- Robbins reported that he is investigating the issue regarding the fire in Jefferson township in March and will present his findings at the next meeting.

Commissioner Splichal complimented the road crew in the use of the new shredder. Several citizens have made comments to Splichal in regards to this new piece of equipment.

- Bowen shared that she is developing improved ways to receive data from operators for better cost analysis of projects.
- Robbins and Bowen thanked Commissioner Garman for attending their employee appreciation luncheon.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, presented quotes for employee appreciation meal for the Ambulance department which will be held October 13.

- Cuba Cash \$9.00 per plate
- TAG’S \$9.99 per plate
- Candikorn \$7.50 per plate

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the quote from Candikorn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Whitley announced the hiring of two part-time EMS employees and that one ambulance is in the repair shop.

Whitley informed the commissioners that EMS has been able to supply enough EMTs to cover most transfer requests by the hospital.

Clerk Marsicek asked the commissioners to approve a service contract on the new shredder from Central Office Supply in the amount of \$320 per year.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the service contract. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek asked permission to authorize COBRA coverage for the month of December 2020 for an employee that retired in November. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, miscommunication and the employee's health issues, paperwork was not filed. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to allow the COBRA insurance as long as the employee paid it in full. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Splichal explained to Commissioner Garman that he and Commissioner Jeardoe met with the Kansas Historical Society on July 13 to review the front steps and the back sidewalk that are made with the same stone. Grant applications will open August 1 and the Historical Society is strongly encouraging Republic County to apply. The maximum amount for the grant is \$90,000.

At 11:50 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 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