

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 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, the Belleville Telescope and Quinten Bergstrom observed parts of the meeting.

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

Pastor Bob Frasier, Belleville Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the July 6, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$450,207.88.

Dick Wolzen, concern citizen, requested that the county remove the debris that has been piled near his fence on west 23rd St when the new bridge was built.

Danielle Swanson, Raymond Raney and Justin Ferrell updated the commission regarding their departments and the COVID-19 in Republic County.

- Ferrell presented Resolution No. 2020-38 appointing Elizabeth Hiltgen as a special prosecuting attorney in his absence from July 16th to July 21st.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-38. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Ferrell also announced that he has received the certification of titles for the properties on the delinquent tax sale.
- Swanson announced that there have been 6 new coronavirus cases in the last week. All persons are recovering at their home. She also stated that there are approximately 60 residents that have been quarantine with association with those cases.
- Swanson stated that the hospital has been a great help with all the testing in the county, however, their testing solution is getting low and most tests are being sent to Topeka. The results usually are back within 24-48 hours.
- Swanson requested permission to advertise for a part-time nurse to assist with the work load on the health department. The commissioners granted that permission.

North Central Kansas Free Fair Board members Kelvin Blecha, Ronda Blecha, Don McChesney and William Popelka announced that the annual fair is still planned for July 28 to August 1 and it includes the carnival and all the regular activities and the races. Extra stations with hand sanitizer will be available and

people are encouraged to wear masks and social distance. Raymond Raney, Belleville High Banks Representative, stated that drivers from several states are registering their cars for the races.

Commissioner Splichal announced that the Kansas State Fair Board was meeting on July 13, 2020 to decide if the State Fair is going to cancel or proceed. Before the end of the commissioners meeting, a message was received that the Kansas State Fair has been canceled for 2020.

K. Blecha stated that the Fair Board had received a grant for \$36,000 to assist with the remodeling of the commercial hall restrooms but remodeling would begin after the close of the fair this year. He also asked if it was possible to add an insurance rider to the county's insurance to cover workman's compensation of employees of the fair ground. Commissioners will look into it and get back to Kelvin.

Jim Swim, candidate for Kansas House District 106, introduced himself and explained his platform for campaigning.

Permission was granted for Belleville Chamber and Mainstreet to use the courthouse square for the annual Poker Walk on July 31.

Permission was granted for Belleville Chamber and Mainstreet to use the Courthouse square for Moonlight Madness on August 6, September 3 and October 1.

The Honorable Mayor of Munden, Jimmy Blecha, presented his quarterly report.

- The patching of the asphalt road south of Munden is nice however some spots are raised up in the center of the road and asked if those could be tapered off more.
- The city council requested information regarding applying for the SPARK funds.
- Blecha asked if the solid waste agreements with the county could be treated as a pass-through account. In other words, the money collected each month is what is sent to the county. Commissioners will review this suggestion and get back to Blecha.
- Commissioner Jeardoe announced that the title certificates on the delinquent tax properties has been received and the tax sale is going forward.

Bobby Lawson and Nathan Craig, Road and Bridge, Stacey Bowen and Dan Snyder, Road and Bridge and transportation departments, presented updates from the county shop departments:

- Commissioners signed the solid waste agreement between Republic County and the city of Munden for solid waste fees for the next six months.
- Bowen announced that the road department received grant funds from KCAMP through the Risk Management area.

Commissioner Jeardoe discussed the issue with the road south of Munden. Lawson and Craig will evaluate the issue and repair as needed for safety of the road.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked if there are plans to remove the debris on west 23rd street near the Dick Wolzen fence. Lawson and Craig were not aware that there was any debris to remove but will visit with Wolzen.

- The road crew is patching on the Cuba road starting at Hwy K 148 north to Cuba.
- Craig evaluated the request to help the hospital remove the concrete and asphalt and agreed that the county could assist with the removal of materials.
- Work on the approaches to the bridge south of Scandia and east of Republic will begin in late August as of right now.
- Bowen stated the funds from Federal Exchange have been requested.
- Snyder said the recycling trailer rotation is back on schedule after the COVID shutdown.
- Bowen asked if she could get a stipend for using her personal phone for work. She wasn't issued one in the past and doesn't want to carry two phones. The matter will be looked into.

Auditor Randy Hofmeier presented the trial proposed budget. With the initial requests from all the departments and outside requests for support the proposed budget amount was over the tax lid. After careful analysis and decreasing over estimates of requests for 2020, the final budget was proposed for publication which includes a decrease in levy for 2021.

Susan Aaron announced that Emergency Management still has weather radios available for a small fee.

Raymond Raney returned to the meeting to discuss the contracting of a non-county employee to manage the SPARK funding.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to offer a contract to Laura Leite of Republic. The contract amount would include \$25 per hour, mileage and the county would furnish a track phone. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Marsicek will contact the state SPARK committee to add Leite as primary contact and Raney and Clerk Marsicek as secondary contacts.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 20, 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