

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 31, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jear DOE and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Fred Arnold from 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assemble of God of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jear DOE made a motion to approve the August 24, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Permission to travel was approved for Barry Porter to attend training in Wichita on September 8.

Raymond Raney, Danielle Swanson and Justin Ferrell presented updates on SPARK funding, delinquent tax sale progress and coronavirus cases in Republic County.

- Raney reported that counties should receive approval or disapproval for the direct spending plan through SPARK within the first part of September.
- Raney also announced that the new air conditioning unit for the dispatch area should arrive this week.
- Swanson reported that there were no new coronavirus cases since August 26. Currently, there are 5 active cases out of the total 38 for Republic County.
- Swanson announced the hiring of Angel Sjogren as full-time RN starting after Labor Day. A phone line, computer line and computer need to be installed in the new office for Sjogren. All the supplies for this position including the wages will be covered through grants to the Health Department. A quote from Cunningham Communications to install the new phone line along with 9 new phones is \$6,987.00. She also presented computer quotes:
 - Lock-It with installation \$1,170.99
 - Amazon without installation \$ 931.89

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to purchase the computer from Lock IT and approve the necessary computer line, phone line and phones from Cunningham as long as it is covered under grants to the Health Department. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Ferrell announced that a letter will be sent to the postmasters of each city with delinquent taxes including instructions regarding the process of the mailed petitions for each property owner.
- Ferrell also announced that most court proceedings are processed through TEAM access and that a grant was received to purchase a public access computer for each courthouse in the 12th Judicial District for those defendants that do not have access to their own computer.

- Ferrell stated that Judge Thompson's office has been painted awaiting the Judges' arrival back in the office.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that Ferrell research the removal of signage around the courthouse square in regards to entrances and exits.

At 9:15 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding wages paid. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners. Swanson and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 15 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:40 a.m., taking no action.

Bobby Lawson, Nathan Craig, Susan Aaron and Stacey Bowen, from road and bridge, solid waste, and transportation departments, presented updates from their departments.

William Popelka from PrairieLand presented quotes for mowers.

- 2020 R10 rotary cutter \$13,300.00 including trade-in
- 2020 R240 Disc Mower \$ 7,500.00 including trade-in

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to purchase the rotary mower. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe announced the hiring of Terry Lambert of Concordia as the new Road and Bridge Administrator and Director of Solid Waste and Transportation. Lambert will start September 9.

- Craig announced:
 - The installation of the two large culverts is complete.
 - The dump truck repairs should be completed this week.
 - The Warwick bridge installation is almost complete. The approaches will need to be completed by the road crew.
 - The patching of asphalt between Narka and US Hwy 36 should be complete this week.
- Lawson reported:
 - Plans are to seal the asphalt from K-148 to Cuba and US Hwy 36 to Munden this fall.
 - He will contact the City of Belleville to assist with sealing S street by the school and assist with other streets as requested.
- Bowen has been researching the purchase of 2 pickup trucks. These trucks would replace the administrator and supervisor pickups. Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Bowen search the Kansas surplus equipment lists and Purplewave for trucks that are 4-wheel drive.
- Bowen reported that she participates in conference calls every Tuesday with Kansas Department of Transportation and suggested that Lambert participate as soon as he can.
- Bowen reported that the Transportation audit is complete. The county has a couple of issues that need addressed but over-all we received a good audit report.
- Aaron presented information regarding solid waste penalty fees from the Kansas Statutes Annotated stating that the county needs to set the fees before July 1st each year and penalties can be assessed at the same rate as other normal tax penalties.

- Aaron also suggested that since the new administrator will be starting, it might be a good time to set his email up using Google-Gmail instead of NCKCN. With a Gmail account, you can share files and documents more easily. Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Aaron and Bowen work with Barry Porter to set the new email for Lambert.

Ferrell returned to the meeting and informed the commissioners that the county can remove any of the signs around the courthouse square they deem to be removed.

Shannon Langston, business owner in Courtland, voiced her objections to paying property taxes on a building (trailer house) that is no longer on the property. Retha Blecha joined the meeting to explain the taxes assessed on the trailer house. A trailer house is classed and assessed as personal property. Since no taxes have been paid, Blecha suggested that Langston visit with the County Treasurer for the possibility of paying under protest.

Clerk Marsicek presented for action a proclamation from Pawnee Mental Health proclaiming September as Recovery Month.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to declare September as Recovery Month. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to Labor Day next Monday, the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8, 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