

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 2, 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, Belleville Telescope observed the meeting.

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

Lay Pastor Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the July 26, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers for the Paint The County were approved in the amount of \$949.25.

Brothers, Luke Hubert and Mark Hubert, announced the plans to open a meat locker in the old vet building south of Belleville. They plan to open by deer hunting season.

Sheriff David Cox reported on activities relating to the Courtland Fun Day last weekend including assisting with a medical emergency. Deputy Steve Medina attended to medical care of the injured person until EMS arrived.

Cox also presented the request to purchase the Digi-Ticket system for the patrol cars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This system would give Republic County deputies the ability to transmit tickets directly to the court system while limiting the contact with persons being issued a ticket. The Kansas Highway Department already uses this system in their patrol cars. The Commissioners are not committing to spending any of the ARPA funds at this time however this system is a necessary piece of equipment for the sheriff's department.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to allow the purchase of the Digi-Ticket system with a cost of \$43,159.12 using county equipment reserve funds. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2021-44 permitting the sale of alcohol liquor by the drink without a 30% food requirement in Republic County, Kansas to be a special question on the November ballot.

Commissioner Jeardoe made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-44. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, present wage sheets for two part-time people.

- EMT Shelby Wood with a starting wage of \$11.50 per hour.
- Paramedic Andrew Hartzell with a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour.

Larry Alsup, Allied Business Solutions, telephone conference called in to introduce his company. Allied has audited many businesses and saved over 20% for the business just by reviewing past invoices. Alsup will send the checklist and additional information to Clerk Marsicek.

Kay Shoemaker and Mike Hadachek, Republic County Development, presented the loan application for Tuxies Ten Pin LLC in the amount of \$45,000. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the loan as long as all stipulations on the conditional agreement are completed. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous.

Hadachek also announced that the loan for equipment for the Republic County Hospital has been sent to the bank's attorney for final approval.

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

- Aaron announced that Republic County has been awarded two grants for the solid waste department. The first is to assist in the purchase of a recycling trailer and the second is for a recyclable's baler. The grants will pay approximately 75% of the purchases.
- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns report.
- Robbins shared that Republic County has received grant information regarding the off-system bridge grant and Republic County's share.
- Contracts were signed for the overlay on the Courtland asphalt.
- Robbins reported that several citizens have requested culvert repairs and additional culverts will need to be purchased.
- Robbins has been investigating the area damaged by fire on March 7 and has information and a recommendation to present to the County Attorney to review.
- Robbins has completed his one on one meetings with each employee working in his departments.
- Bowen shared a thank you from a passenger on the transportation bus.

Permission was granted for the Belleville Chamber and Mainstreet to use the front courtyard for a back to school Moonlight Madness activity on September 2.

Jimmie Blecha, Raymond Raney, Brian Stindt, Brad Hansen and Brian Freeman joined the meeting to discuss Rural Water District issues and possible use of ARPA funds.

Commissioners Garman and Jeardoe explained that Republic County is researching the best way to use of the ARPA funds to service citizens in Republic County. Everyone is aware of the water issues in the City of Belleville and possible future issues with the Rural Water Districts. Raney explained if the county allows the water districts to use this money the Water Districts are classed as subrecipients and need to follow the instructions for applying and using the funds. There is an IONIC exchange water treatment system proposal that the City of Belleville is working on. The Rural Water District representatives will discuss this information at their regular board meetings and report back to commissioners.

Mayor Adam Robertson and City Manager of Belleville Adam Anderson reported that the City of Belleville is working with the Rural Water District #2 currently to share the cost of the IONIC exchange water treatment system but would accept any assistance from Republic County to help with the expenses. Anderson reported that there are some grants and forgiveness of some funds offered by the state that the City of Belleville is researching. We are wanting only a small portion of the expenses to be passed down to the users of the water.

There are three cities in Republic County that are not connected to a Rural Water District and have their own wells, Cuba, Scandia and Republic. The City of Munden was the last city to contract with Rural Water District #2 when their private wells failed to supply safe water to the city and Mayor Blecha is a strong supporter of Republic County assisting with a water purification system.

At 12:10 p.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 9, 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