

**REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Doug Garman was absent. Commissioner Jeardoe was Acting Chair in the absence of Commissioner Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from The Belleville Telescope monitored 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 in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Levi Whitley & Jeff Beikmann, EMS Director and Assistant Director, updated the commissioners with information from the EMS Department.

- The Lukas device for the ambulances is installed and training will be scheduled in the near future.
- Whitley presented a payroll increase sheet for Ty Sothers who is now certified as an AEMT.
- Beikmann will leave May 17 to deliver ambulance #2 for repair work on the floor in Linn, Missouri.
- Whitley and Beikmann asked permission to use county building funds to replace lights in the bay area of the EMS station. They will present two quotes for the commission to review.
- Whitley presented a new wage scale and the 2023 budget request for 2023.

Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, requested an executive session.

At 8:55 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel relating to job duties. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Swanson and Clerk Marsicek.

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., tabling action until all commissioners could review the information.

Permission was granted for Belleville Chamber & Mainstreet to use the courthouse square for the annual Farmers market on Saturdays from May 28 through September 3.

Commissioner Jeardoe shared an announcement from OCK and Blue Cross Blue Shield that May is National Bike Month.

Tommy Koko and Luke Hagedorn from NextEra, Mike Kolman, Daryl Levendofsky, Kelli Childs, Tynan Dowell, Jennifer Loring, Jeanette Sheets, Barry Baxa, Melody Joy, Terry Gile and Michael Holtz-Free Lance Writer joined the meeting during public forum.

Childs presented testimonies relating their experiences from persons living around wind turbines in other areas.

Kolman requested that the commissioners need to pull back the project production until ample setbacks can be established. NextEra proposes 1,250 ft but other research suggests one and a half miles away from residences' homes. Many counties have signed resolutions for moratoriums to insure the rights of the citizens of their county both those participating and those non-participating.

Kolman and Child requested that Republic County sign a resolution for a moratorium so the county as a whole can work together for what is best for the county. They want the commissioners to hold public meetings for all persons not just those for the project or those against the project., with equal disclosure from both sides.

The group presented a petition with 240 signatures requesting the moratorium to protect the rights of the citizens. The group also suggested that the commissioners look at zoning rules for Republic County.

Baxa stated that if you it bothers you then you have the right to move out.

Commissioner Splichal reported that many other citizens have requested they absolutely did not want zoning because they don't want people to tell them what they can and cannot do on their land. Zoning would be costly to implement and the rules would apply to everyone in the county on all issues not just windfarms.

Katherine Wilber, concerned citizen, asked what progress are the commissioners making on repairing the front steps that are breaking and unsafe. Wilber presented a book on Republic County History that stated the original steps were built in 1939 but were replaced in 2006. Wilbur also asked what could she or any other concerned citizen do to assist with the updating of these steps.

Commissioner Splichal advised that any communication that Wilber and any other citizens could send to the Kansas Historical Society would be appreciated.

Commissioner Jeardoe said that Republic County was limited on how we repair or replace the steps because the courthouse including the steps is on the National Historical Register. Republic County received a quote 3 years ago and there weren't enough funds to replace the steps. Another quote was requested from that same company last fall but no quote has been received. Commissioner Jeardoe also suggested that Wilber could contact Johnson Monument for a quote or information where the Republic County could purchase replacement limestone rock slabs.

Custodian Patrick Comstock presented a request for emergency repair work to replace the conduit to the air conditioner and small panel in the Northeast corner of the courthouse. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the work from Hood Heating and Air to do the needed repairs. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 10:35 a.m., due to the auditor using the board room, the commissioners moved their meeting to the County Appraiser's office to hold a phone conference with the Cloud County commissioners to review applications for the joint Appraiser's position vacating by Barry Porter on July 15.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding applications with the Cloud County Commissioners via phone conference. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were commissioners from both counties and the clerks from both counties.

The board reconvened at 10:55 a.m. The clerks will set up interviews to be held at Cloud County board room on May 31 in the afternoon.

At 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L. Marsicek, Republic County Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Garman – Chair  
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Edwin Splichal – Member  
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Melvin Jeardoe– Member