## REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 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 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 Garman made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the June 28, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Kay Shoemaker, Republic County Development (RCD) treasurer, presented for signature the Biannual reports for Kansas Department of Commerce for current loans.

Shoemaker announced that there will be an RCD meeting on Wednesday, July 7 at the courthouse board room.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the new quote of \$7,826.00 from Hood Heating Air to install additional outlets in the District Courtroom. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman.

Raymond Raney, Danielle Swanson and Justin Ferrell updated the commissioners regarding their departments.

Raney explained that he has created an application for requests to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and will be attaching a condensed list of guidelines necessary to qualify for the funds.

Swanson presented for signature the annual USD 426 school contract for services.

Swanson explained that she is applying for additional grants that are available through Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In one of the new grants, expenses occurring back to January 1, 2021 for COVID vaccine clinics and personnel not covered by other grants could be reimbursed.

Ferrell reported that there is no update on the railroad crossing issue nor on the Kansas vs Nebraska television stations.

Kelvin Blecha and Will Popelka, North Central Kansas (NCK) Free Fair, explained a concern regarding insurance for fairground employees during fair time. Blecha shared that the updates on the commercial building restrooms has not been started and will probably be postponed until after the 2021 NCK Fair in August.

Sheriff David Cox requested a fifty cent an hour wage increase for Shawn Sprayberry since he has completed the law enforcement training. It was approved.

Cox reported that he has applied for funding from the ARPA funds to purchase Digi-ticket machines for the patrol cars. Cox clarified the budget requests for the sheriff's office and jail department.

Kenneth Robbins and Nathan Craig presented updates from the county shop area and transportation.

• Robbins presented the weekly report including community concerns, new projects and completed projects.

- Josh Beckman from Kirkham Michael presented the bids for the overlay on 30 RD from K148 to the north city limit boundary of Courtland.
  - Hall Brothers, IncAPAC Kansas

## \$680,680.00 \$811,565.65

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

- Robbins reported that the letters delivered to the owners regarding noxious weeds have produced results of disking fields and plans for future action to prevent noxious weeds.
- Robbins announced the hiring of Michael Gillilan as road grader. Gillilan started July 1 at an hourly wage of \$13.50.
- Robbins reported that the new Cat 322 was delivered on July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that Robbins and the road supervisor for the Munden area review a stretch of asphalt road where a barrier of trees has been cleared between a pond and the highway. A local citizen stated that they feel that area could be hazardous in the winter if the road is slick. Robbins and Craig will review the area and propose a plan to make it less hazardous.

• Robbins announced that both transportation busses have been inspected and approved by Kansas Department of Transportation.

Levi Whitley and Jeff Beikmann, EMS department, expressed concerns regarding the proposed budget for the Ambulance and Special Ambulance. The bottom line was correct however the specific funds need to be corrected. Clerk Marsicek explained that when combining several fund numbers back to basic categories of contractual and commodities, some object numbers have both categories. She will get with Whitley and they will correct the categories or amounts which ever is needed and resend the information to the auditor to update the budget draft.

Whitley and Beikmann suggested that a separate training reserve fund be created.

Susan Aaron, solid waste administrative assistant, explained that several concerned citizens of Republic County are having issues with the trash disposal services and asked if the commissioners could suggest any ideas to improve the issues. The commissioners suggested that Aaron contact the county attorney and request that a letter be sent explaining the concerns.

Following discussion relating to the commissioners being unavailable to meet on Monday, July 19 through July 21, it was the consensus of the board to not hold a commission meeting that week. Clerk Marsicek will notify the media and general public that no meeting will be held July 19 to July 23.

At 12:20 p.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 12, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

The commissioners will also attend a meeting with the Kansas Historical Society regarding the front steps and the back sidewalk on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the courthouse.

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

Melvin Jeardoe - Chair

Edwin Splichal – Member

Doug Garman – Member