

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 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.

Lay Pastor Al Urich, American Lutheran Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the September 27, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Commissioner Splichal and Commissioner Jeardoe will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the Proclamation announcing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Republic County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Clerk Marsicek announced the final valuation for Republic County for 2021 is \$93,851,768.

Raymond Raney, Danielle Swanson and Justin Ferrell presented their biweekly reports.

Raney presented a list of seven grant applications requesting ARPA funding and information from Laura Leite suggesting the development of a plan by the County to use the funds.

Swanson reported there were 26 new cases of COVID last week along with two COVID related deaths. Flu shots are now available at the Health Department and Flu Shot clinics scheduled throughout Republic County. There will be a Health Fair on October 23 where persons can receive flu shots and COVID vaccine. Swanson announced that the Pfizer vaccine booster is available for persons over 65 and others if they meet medical requirements.

Ferrell reported that many of the file cabinets the in the storage room must be retained so another storage area will need to be found to move the cabinets. Ferrell is still working with Cunningham regarding the Kansas vs Nebraska television station.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, announced the reporting of statistics for Republic County EMS employees to the Kansas Board of EMS in regards to how COVID has affected the Republic County EMS department the past few months.

The EMS department passed their annual inspection with no corrections needed. Whitley also announced that there would be an AEMT class starting after January 1st, 2022.

Sheriff David Cox reported several issues affecting the sheriff's department.

- 37 people booked in the Republic County jail during September.
- Betti-K9 will be sent to KU for medical exam.
- A meeting has been scheduled with Pawnee Mental Health to create a better working relationship.
- The sheriff's department will be part of a military escort from the Nebraska border to Cloud County.
- Cox is pricing vehicles to replace an older vehicle in 2022.
- Republic County will house Cloud County inmates during the remodeling at Cloud County Corrections facility.

The City Manager of Belleville, Adam Anderson, presented projects for the City of Belleville including,

- Thanking Republic County road crews for assisting with the sealing of streets.
- Thanking Commissioner Splichal for the letter of support on behalf of the County Commission and Economic Development for a grant application.
- Bids for the water treatment system will be let in the spring of 2022.
- The City of Belleville is willing to work with the county if a recycling center is developed.

Ken Robbins, Nathan Craig and Stacie Bowen presented updates from the county shop area.

- Robbins presented the weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- All sealing of roads is complete and the road crew will be applying cold mix to patch other roads until cold mix is used up.
- Bobby Lawson's last day will be Friday, October 8, 2021.
- Grader training will be on October 5, 2021 for new employees.
- The new fuel system will be installed this week.
- Commissioner Splichal announced a compliment on the asphalt patching this year from a county citizen.

Commissioner Garman notified Robbins of citizen's request of damage to a mail box while the mowing crews were working on Lincoln Rd. Robbins will research the issue.

James Neeld, Attorney for Sandberg Phoenix of Kansas City, explained that he has represented two other counties in Kansas as they developed Windfarms in those counties. Those counties being Nemaha and Marshall. Neeld explained there are many questions that need to be researched before and during the installation of windfarms in the county. There are people that are all for windfarms and there are those that are extremely against the windfarms and every county has both and be prepared to listen to both.

At 11:00 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege information regarding windfarm contracts and county responsibility. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the commissioners, Neeld, Ferrell and Clerk Marsicek.

Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:25 a.m., taking no action.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting to attend the hospital board meeting. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 11, 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