

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 20, 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. Deb Hadachek, 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.

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

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

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the July 13, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Jear DOE seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Quinten Bergstrom shared kolaches in honor of Commissioner Bergstrom's birthday.

Danielle Swanson and Raymond Raney updated the commission regarding their departments and the COVID-19 in Republic County.

- Swanson reported that her department is coronavirus testing approximately 5 people daily along with their regular duties.
- Swanson also announced that 10 Kansas counties have rescinded their resolutions that they would not mandate the wearing of face masks in their counties.
- Swanson also explained that she has contacted both school districts with recommendations prior to opening schools this fall.
- Swanson requested that the commissioners consider hiring a full-time nurse instead of part time nurse to assist with the additional vaccines and school visitations that will occur this year. The commissioners granted her permission to hire an additional nurse with the understanding that when the pandemic is over that person's wages will be paid through her personal services.
- Raney explained that Laura Leite is working on the plan for the expenditures and reimbursements from phase 1 and discussed some suggestions of the SPARK committee.
- Raney shared that the county antenna located north of Belleville was struck by lightning but is now fixed.
- Raney also informed the commission that the races during the NCK Fair will be held as scheduled.

Annette Bredthauer, concerned citizen, asked if the county is enforcing the noxious weed regulations. There are several fields and ditches that have musk thistles that should be sprayed or disked under. Also, Bredthauer asked about the removal or spraying of cedar trees in road ways. Commissioner Jear DOE will notify the weeds department and the road & bridge department of these requests.

Nathan Craig, Road and Bridge department, and Stacey Bowen, Transportation department, presented updates from the county shop departments:

- Bowen announced that Republic County was awarded the cost share grant from KDOT to overlay the asphalt south of Courtland; however, the bidding process will push the work back to spring of 2021.
- Bowen shared that three interviews for Operator 1 are set up for Monday afternoon.
- Craig stated that he contacted Dick Wolzen regarding the removal of debris on his fence. The debris will be disposed of as soon as feasible.
- Since the grant notification was received, Craig is reviewing other asphalt roads that could be overlaid in 2020. One road suggested is the asphalt south of Munden, or at least part of the road.
- Craig shared that the supplies and parts needed for the truck overhaul and tracks for the excavator have not been received.
- Bowen asked permission to sell one of the oldest pickups and purchase a replacement pickup from the KS surplus auction when one comes available. Permission was granted.

Correspondence was read in regards to adding gravel on Jade Rd to the driveway of a farmyard just west of 300 RD. The policy states if no one currently lives at the location the landowner will pay for the gravel on the road. Craig stated he would contact the landowner.

Commissioner Jeardoe explained that a concerned citizen requested action regarding the spraying of thistles in the ditches and fields.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that Craig notify Mike Nondorf about spraying ditches for thistles and cedar trees. Commissioner Jeardoe also mentioned mounting a spraying unit to the graders and spraying weeds when they are working on roads.

Commissioner Splichal announced that he attended Juvenile Detention meeting and reported that there have not been any coronavirus cases at that facility.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 27, 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