

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 1, 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 Kathleen Marsicek, Little Blue River Parish, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the February 22, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman shared a compliment with Danielle Swanson in regards to the vaccination Point of Dispense, POD. It is being run very nicely with smooth transitions between shots and holding areas.

Danielle Swanson, Health Department Director, reported there have been very few new cases in the past few weeks, which is a good sign. Swanson also announced that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has a new grant available for counties to assist with the cost of administering the vaccines and other costs relating to the COVID pandemic.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Preparedness, reported that even though the county has signed the Emergency Declaration it has to be approved by the Federal Government in order to receive any funding. Currently, the energy issue does not fit into any category on the Federal level.

Clerk Marsicek presented for approval permission to travel to the North Central Kansas County Clerk's Spring meeting at Milford on March 18.

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

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel regarding application for employment. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 9:15 a.m., taking so action.

Levi Whitley, candidate for EMS Director, visited the commissioners regarding retirement benefits offered by Republic County. Whitley currently has KP&F and understands that Republic County only offers KPERS for non-sheriff employees. Commissioner Garman explained that the Republic County Policy offers KPERS to all non-sheriff employees that qualify for benefits however, research can be done to possibly offer KP&F in the

future. The cost of offering KP&F to EMS employees would greatly affect the budget and budgets are set in August of the previous year.

Whitley accepted the position of EMS Director effect March 22, 2021 pending preemployment testing. He will continue to work at his present position until he completes his required days' notice of leaving.

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:35 a.m., taking no action.

Stacey Bowen and Nathan Craig, representing the road and bridge department, presented updates from the county shop area.

- Craig announced:
 - Grader operators are grading the gravel roads.
 - The bridge crew and asphalt crew are working on the new shop building.
 - The Truck drivers are stock piling gravel for summer projects.
- Craig also stated that Fir Rd from US 81 to Jewell County line is scheduled for sealing during 2021, along with overlays to a 5 mile stretch on asphalt from Lincoln to Granite on 270 and 280 Rd.
- Commissioners reminded Craig to instruct the road maintainers to cut drainage gaps on the graded roads.
- Commissioner Garman requested that Craig analyze the bridge costs to make a projection of when a bridge needs outsourced and when the county can repair or build in house to save costs.
- Bowen shared that the list of equipment for the Midwest Auction catalog is complete.
- Bowen also stated the replacement door for the office has been ordered.
- Transportation bus still in need of driver.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, presented an addendum to SPARK project leaders' contract in order to continue to reimburse Laura Leite for hours worked until the project is closed by the state.

Ferrell also presented an update on the conditional use agreement drawn up in 2016 with NextEra. Because of changes in the location of townships not listed on the original agreement the conditional use needs to be amended by having a notice of publication set for a public hearing of the changes.

David Strnad, EMS Director, joined the meeting to be notified of the hiring of the new EMS Director and Strnad was requested to contact Whitley to arrange a smooth transition.

Jeff Beikmann, EMS candidate for Director, joined the meeting.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss employer-employee negotiations regarding performance and wages. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the commissioners, Beikmann and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to offer the assistant EMS Director position to Beikmann. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Beikmann will review the offer and contact Clerk Marsicek on Tuesday, March 2.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 8, 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