

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Melvin Jeardoe and Doug Garman. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Deb Hadachek from the 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 Deb Hadachek, Beloit Presbyterian Church, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of windfarm tour due to weather. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff David Cox explained the activities of his department stating that several citations were written over the weekend.

Cox presented the Sheriff and Jail proposed budgets for 2024 and explained that the increases were due to wages, increased fuel prices and adding a vehicle purchase fund line as requested by the commissioners.

Brent Cunningham, Cunningham Cable, joined the meeting to request a letter of support for a grant for Fiber optics installation in parts of rural Republic County.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to sign the letter of support for Cunningham. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous.

Annette Bredthauer, concerned citizen, presented a report from a K-State Veterinarian regarding the damages to animals after digesting the fiberglass shards from debris in fields from broken wind blades.

At 9:30 a.m., Trish Voth, Attorney at Law from Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting via Zoom.

Ken Robbins presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge and turbine project information:

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins reported that as of Monday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m., one bid for the bailing of grass at the land fill had been received. The close of bids is at 12:00 P.M. Monday, May 15.
- Highway department will assist the courthouse custodian with concrete work around the courthouse.
- Paving repairs will begin this week.
- Robbins presented 7 utilities agreements for signatures.
 - JBN Telephone for fiber optic cable 29.4-V.75-98L in Agenda.
 - JBN Telephone for fiber optic cable G-22.2-.25 in Munden.
 - JBN Telephone for fiber optic cable D-28.1-.27 L in Narka.
 - JBN Telephone for fiber optic cable 27-P.0-Q L & Q-26.75-27 L in Cuba.
 - Thayne Larson/Bestifor Farms install pipe 9-T.0 L, Sec.4 Twn 4 Rg 4
 - Melinda Melhus/Bestifor Farms install pipe T-9.12-.5 L, Sec.4 Twn 4 Rg 4
 - LarsonBestifor Farms install pipe T-9.0-.12 L, Sec.4 Twn 4 Rg 4

At 9:45 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for Attorney/Client privilege for 15 minutes to further discuss windfarm cost analysis for decommissioning. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins, Voth and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

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

Voth left the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes to review employee job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:20 a.m., taking no action.

Resolution No. 2023-23 allowing Republic County EMS to participate in a State rescue training was presented for approval.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-23. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Resolution No. 2023-24 to rescind resolution No. 2022-22 appointing Toby Marco as County Appraiser was presented for approval.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-24. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Resolution No. 2023-25 to create a fund number for monies from the American Rescue Plan Act was presented for approval.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-25. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Resolution No. 2023-26 to create a fund number for monies received from NextEra Windfarm was presented for approval. This resolution was tabled until next week.

With all agenda items completed and to accommodate the county auditors, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 22, 2023 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Edwin Splichal, Chairperson

Melvin Jeardoe, Member

Doug Garman, Member