

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 23, 2024, 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. Tim Eitzmann-District 2 Commissioner Elect, Doug Jackson-District 3 Commissioner Elect, and Deb Hadachek-Telescope monitored most of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Kevin Weston, Zion Evangelical Church of Munden, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers were approved in the amount of \$178,358.11.

Ken Robbins and Nathan Craig presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge, and Turbine project information.

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Road crew has been working on 170 Rd but will discontinue until weather permits.
- Robbins asked the commissioners to approve the 2025 wage scale for the departments that Robbins oversees. The Commissioners consensus was to approve the new wage scale.
- Robbins met with the Cloud County Solid Waste Director-Mike Hake and Commissioner –Elect Danny Kearn on Wednesday, December 18. Robbins explained that Republic County could assume the trucking of solid waste to Hamms starting in February 2025 until other contracts could be signed.
- The Commissioners approved the increase of 3% for solid waste fees for Republic County citizens.

At 9:00 a.m., Republic County Commissioners called the Cloud County Commissioners to discuss workable solutions to the disposal of Solid waste from the Cloud County transfer station. Attending the conference call were the Cloud County Commissioners Ron Copple, Mike Cleveland, Gary Casper, Commissioner Elect Danny Kearn, Mike Hake, Clerk Shella Thoman, Republic County Commissioners-Jeardoe, Garman, Splichal, Commissioners Elect-Jackson, Eitzmann, Robbins, Craig, Hadachek, and Clerk Marsicek.

It was agreed to create an interlocal agreement by the Republic County Attorney to supply a truck and driver from Republic County to haul solid waste from the Cloud County transfer station to Hamms near Topeka until a permanent solution could be achieved. The agreement would start February 1st, 2025, for one year with the option to early out if necessary.

At 10:05 a.m., Commissioner Garman called the Republic County amended budget hearing to order. With no concerns or protests, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the amended Republic County Budget for 2024 and close the budget hearing. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Commissioner Garman stated that he received an update via email from Representative Lisa Moser regarding the installation of a turning lane on US Hwy 36 near the new CVA project.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to give a \$10,000 bonus to Ken Robbins in the first payroll of 2025 for his work with the windfarm project and his work with financial details with the solid waste disposal with Cloud County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

Paul Kallman, Honorable Mayor of Scandia, reported that the original purpose of the ARPA funds to the city of Scandia has fallen through but they have a need to repair the sewer lift and other sewer issues.

Kallman thanked the county crews for their assistance in oiling and sealing streets in Scandia.

Raymond Raney, Director of Emergency Management and Communications, presented the wage scale for his departments. Raney announced that Colleen Alkire is retiring, and job duties have changed amongst the employees. The dispatchers will start a new shift pattern of working 12-hour shifts instead of 8-hour shifts.

Raney presented an updated ARPA fund report with the balance available adjusted to the new request from the City of Munden pending approval of the board.

Jimmie Blecha, Mayor of Munden, requested assistance with the installation of valves in their water lines from the ARPA funds if there is any available. Three requests were presented. The first for the main valve that is currently leaking and needs fixed urgently. The quotes were from Hood Plumbing.

- Most urgent need \$6,664.00.
- A second valve that is needed but not urgent \$5442.00.
- A third valve that will need replaced in the near future, \$8,082.00

Commissioner Jeardoe told Blecha that the final decisions of the ARPA will be reviewed to see if there are funds available.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the Juvenile Detention meeting on December 18 in Junction City.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented Resolution No. 2024-27, Wages for the Elected Officials for 2025. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

Commissioner Garman led the discussion regarding the request of Mayor Blecha. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the use of \$12,000 of the ARPA funds to assist the City of Munden. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the balance of the ARPA funds, approximately \$24,000 to be designated as funds to be used for the new communication tower. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 30, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse in the Commissioners' boardroom.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe, Chairperson

Doug Garman, Member

Edwin Splichal, Member