

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Edwin Splichal, Doug Garman, and Melvin Jeardoe. 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 by Commissioner Splichal and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Jacob Rice, Central Christian Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from September 18, 2023. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$259,875.69.

At 8:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into an executive session regarding non-elected personnel for 15 minutes about job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 8:50 a.m., taking no action.

Commissioner Splichal reported that he attended the North Central Juvenile board meeting in Jewell County.

The commissioners reviewed the purchase agreement for the old armory. A phone conference was held with realtor David Blecha to discuss the agreement and updates needed before a final copy is signed.

Adam Anderson, Belleville City Manager, during his quarterly report to the board asked about the responsibilities of the upkeep regarding the ball fields south of the fairground. The City of Belleville has always maintained that area and asked if there was a written agreement between the City of Belleville and Republic County. Clerk Marsicek will research the matter and report back to both parties.

Anderson announced that the quarterly Nitrate testing shows a decrease, it is now under 10 ppm.

Anderson asked if the county would be available to assist with the street sealing in Belleville this fall. Ken Robbins joined the meeting and confirmed that the county would be available to assist with the street sealing but needs the dates when the city plans on sealing.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to enter into an executive session regarding non-elected personnel for 10 minutes pertaining to a candidate for the appraiser position. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:05 a.m., taking no action.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- There are 173 fully erected turbines.
- Next Era will start the functional testing of the turbines in the near future. The lights of the completed turbines will flash until the aircraft detection system is completed in about 6 weeks.
- Robbins reported that the county will be applying a dust control agent on 70 Rd south of US 36 this week and the road will be closed until the afternoon of September 29 to prepare the road surface and to let the dust control agent cure.

At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess into an executive session to discuss confidential data for 10 minutes about financial affairs. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Robbins, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

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

Gayla Godfrey, candidate for Appraiser, joined the meeting.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 30 minutes to interview a candidate for Appraiser. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Godfrey, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 5 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:20 a.m., taking no action.

Clerk Marsicek requested an increase in the fuel card for the EMS department. The limit of \$250 will not cover the multiple transfers covered on a monthly basis. Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to raise the limit to \$1,000. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Splichal made it unanimous.

At 11:25 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess into an executive session to discuss confidential data for 10 minutes about financial affairs. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 11:35 a.m., taking no action.

Clerk Marsicek presented a Proclamation from the North Central Kansas Down Syndrome Society to proclaim October as Down Syndrome Awareness month. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to proclaim October as Down Syndrome month in Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Commissioner Garman made it unanimous.

Permission was granted for Sandee Swanson, Register of Deeds, to attend the NCK District fall meeting for Register of Deeds in Council Grove on October 13.

Clerk Marsicek reported that she contacted U.S. Stone in Manhattan about quotes and samples of stone for the front step project. Samples have been received and the board reviewed them. Since there was not a quote sent just the samples of stone, the board requested that Clerk Marsicek contact U.S. Stone to schedule a visit to discuss quoting.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. in order for Commissioner Jeardoe and Commissioner Splichal to attend the Republic County Hospital board meeting at noon. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 2, 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