

## **REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 27, 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.

Pastor Craig Roberts, Landmark Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from March 20, 2023. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers were approved in the amount of \$155,133.58.

Deb Hadachek and Dan Kelly from Republic County Hospital presented a request for additional funds for the hospital from the windfarm contributions. Funds could be used for additional plans to improve the parking lots and front entrance area along with offsetting the additional cost of current construction. The Commissioners will keep the request on the list when preparing the 2024 budget for Republic County.

Brian Russell and Jason Crowley from TK Elevator joined via TEAMS at 8:45 a.m. to explain the quote to modernize our Dover elevator with DMC controllers. The commissioners requested a checklist of requirements and work needed before the update can be installed before making a commitment to proceed. Russell also stated that per new state fire code regulations all elevators must be registered with the state and recommended that process be completed as soon as possible.

James Doyle, High Banks Racetrack treasurer, announced there will be several races on the track during 2023 and that the racetrack did receive a \$50,000.00 grant to assist with updates at the track. Doyle is applying for additional grants to offset the cost of updates. Doyle also requested an increase of \$5,000 in the annual contribution from Republic County to equal \$20,000. The Commissioners will keep the request on the list when preparing the 2024 budget for Republic County.

Shannon Short and Sam Alexander on behalf of the Blair Theater requested an increase in contributions for 2024. Currently Republic County donates \$5,000. The City of Belleville has matched Republic County contributions to the Blair. Improvements to the Blair east room are needed including heating and air conditioning. Many groups use the entire Blair facility for activities and the improvements are necessary. The Commissioners will keep the request on the list when preparing the 2024 budget for Republic County.

Susan Aaron, Solid Waste secretary, presented for signatures the new contracts for Tony Strnad and Jerry Strnad to lease Republic County's omni-directional antenna tower.

Jenny Pachta, NCK CASA & HOPE Place representative, explained several activities scheduled to raise awareness of these two groups in Republic County and surrounding counties.

Pachta also presented a proclamation for action by the commissioners to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Republic County. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Ken Robbins, Levi Whitley and Clerk Marsicek presented Resolution No. 2023-19, Adopting a longevity increase compensation policy. Robbins explained that employees would receive a 2% increase each year through year 5 in addition to any COLA the commissioners set. In years 10, 15, 20 and 25, a 5% increase would be received.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-19. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins announced that there is one turbine completed.
- Robbins stated that crews will be working on 60 Rd between Marble and Nickle this week.
- Robbins presented a check from Blattner for \$300,427.22 for repairs to replace 3 box culvert decks and abutments this fall. Blattner contracted with Reece Construction and L&M Construction to complete the repairs. Commissioner Splichal made a motion to allow Robbins to sign the repair agreement for Republic County. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Commissioner Jeardoe made it unanimous.
- Researching the repairs needed for the transportation bus lift, resulted in a conversation with the Kansas Department of Transportation offering a third bus at no charge if Republic County could use it.

Tommy Kokko, NextEra, invited the commissioners to tour any of the turbine sites. The public is also invited but please contact Kokko to plan the visit.

Justin Ferrell, Republic County Attorney, Travis Boyer, Republic County Deputy County Clerk, Cloud County commissioners Ron Copple, Gary Caspers and Mark Matthew with Cloud County Clerk Shella Thoman joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 30 minutes pertaining to job performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were Republic County Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Ferrell and Boyer. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 10 minutes.

The board reconvened at 11:15 a.m., taking no action.

Permission was granted for the Ministerial Alliance to hold the annual Easter Egg hunt on the courthouse lawn on April 8.

Clerk Marsicek presented a quote for a new server for the courthouse from LockIt Technology in the amount of \$14,868.15.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the purchase from LockIt Technology. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal.

Commissioner Jeardoe reported that he attended the Flint Hills Area on Aging meeting at the Kallman Suites last week. Commissioner Jeardoe will be attending the Pawnee Mental Health meeting on Tuesday, March 28.

Toby Marco, County Appraiser, joined the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes pertaining to job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Garman. Attending the session were Republic county Commissioners, Cloud County Commissioners, Ferrell and Marco.

The board reconvened at 11:50 a.m., taking no action.

The Cloud County Commissioners and Clerk left the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

At 11:57 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to recess to executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 3 minutes pertaining to job performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Splichal. Attending the session were Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 12:00 p.m., taking no action.

After reviewing information from a local accountant and the county's accountant, information was received stating that any incentive funds given out will be taxable income to those persons.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to set \$200,000.00 as the incentive amount for 2023 for the housing program. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Commissioner Jeardoe.

Commissioner Splichal will contact the Republic County Housing committee.

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

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, 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

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Melvin Jeardoe, Member

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Doug Garman, Member