

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 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.

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

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Assembly of God Church in Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Marsicek introduced Liz Tebow as the new Deputy County Clerk. Tebow started August 26 with a wage of \$16.20 per hour.

Harold Wilber, David Wilber and Terry Gile asked for the commissioners to explain the reimbursement agreement, the decommissioning agreement that was amended, and if there blinking lights have been permanently synced.

Commissioner Garman stated that the reimbursement agreement is to pay Republic County to update the windfarm access roads so NextEra can move to the next project. The decommissioning agreement was amended to include current values if a decommissioning was to happen. This agreement will be reviewed every 5 years.

Commissioner Jeardoe shared that he has contacted NextEra, and the blinking lights are only to come on when an aircraft is within 3 miles. Jeardoe and Garman suggested contacting NextEra for an FAA flight report if they want to find out more information regarding the timing of the aircraft flights relating to the blinking lights.

H. Wilber stated that he was glad the front step project is moving forward. Wilber was a commissioner when they were last repaired, and the stones did not hold up as well as anticipated.

H. Wilber asked for an update on the HUD Revolving loan funds. It has been a great source for local businesses, but the requirements were very strict and many applications had to seek funds elsewhere.

Gile shared that his business was one of the early loans that used the funds, and it was great to have a county loan instead of a bank loan. Gile and H. Wilber shared that the state should revise the requirements to meet 2024 needs instead of 1980.

Faye Jones, Health Administrator, presented for signature the USD 426 annual school contract for services.

Jones announced that all the Health Department WIC services are 100% reimbursed by the state.

Jones presented a request to travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the National Reproductive Health Conference from September 9 to 13. Persons attending the conference Lydia Pacht, Faye Jones and Lauren Eitzmann. All expenses will be reimbursed through Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The Commissioners granted permission to travel to the conference.

Jones announced that Flu shots will be available starting in September and flu shot clinics are being scheduled throughout Republic County.

The Honorable Mayor of Scandia, Paul Kallman, shared that Scandia will need to have some streets sealed by the county this fall. Kallman stated that the new water well has been inspected. Kallman reminded the commissioners of the annual Hwy 36 garage sales begin on September 19.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to open the RNR hearing in regard to the 2025 Republic County budget. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous. Attending the hearing were Harold Wilber, David Wilber, Ken Robbins, Levy Whitley, the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

H. Wilber asked if there was a better way to project land value and land use. Commissioner Jeardoe stated that was up to the state PVD department.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the RNR increase Resolution No. 2023-23. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Garman moved to close the RNR hearing. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Jeardoe made unanimous.

At 10:16 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe moved to open the 2025 Republic County and Rural Fire District 1&2 budget hearing. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the hearing were Harold Wilber, David Wilber, Ken Robbins, Levy Whitley, the commissioners and Clerk Marsicek.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the 2025 Republic County and Rural Fire District 1 & 2 budgets and to close the budget hearing. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion which Commissioner Garman made unanimous.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins is disappointed with the new recycled asphalt paving that was attempted on 70 Road because it did not hold up. Material testing will continue over the next few weeks to develop a formula that will be an acceptable product to use.
- Road crew will apply dust control liquid to 70 Road on Tuesday.
- Robbins has purchased a pickup truck through the Kansas surplus. It is a 2014 ¾ ton with 89,000 miles.

Clerk Marsicek announced that the signed agreement with Leifert Construction Co. LLC has been received and they plan on starting work September 3 on the east side of the courthouse with the sidewalk and patio area.

Commissioner Jeardoe presented a proclamation from Pawnee Mental Health to proclaim September 2024 as Recovery Month. The consensus of the board is to proclaim September 2024 as Recovery Month in Republic County.

Cindy Coons, County Treasurer, presented the list of parcels that sold on the delinquent tax sale on August 23, 2024. Republic County collected \$75,700.00 from the sale.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to Labor Day on Monday, September 2, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3, 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