

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 28, 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. Deb Hadachek from the Belleville 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 Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assemble of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Splichal will attend the Republic County Hospital Board meeting at noon.

Sheriff David Cox reported that a group of county employees met with the Goldberg Associates in the Emergency Management conference room on Monday, October 21 to discuss possible financial options for Republic County should they approve the new Law enforcement project at the armory. Commissioner Garman and Clerk Marsicek attended that meeting and shared information.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked Sheriff Cox for a reason for the increase of proposed panic buttons in the courthouse. Cox explained that the additional buttons would increase the safety of the employees. Currently, there are 15 buttons which is one per office and department heads suggested additional buttons since there are several rooms in each office.

Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to approve only two panic buttons per office. Motion died due to no second.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the quote as proposed (24 buttons) and have the Sheriff confirm with each department head where the buttons will be installed. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1.

Levi Whitley, EMS Director, reported that the responder training was held and there were 30 people in attendance.

Clerk Marsicek reported that 282 voters have voted early in the clerk's office and 200 ballots have been mailed out to voters.

James Banahan, Honorable Mayor of Cuba, presented his quarterly report from his community.

- Banahan asked if the county has developed a formal process to request funds from the wind farm contributions.
- Commissioner Garman stated that a formal process has not been developed. If someone or an entity of Republic County wants to request funds, send a request to the county and the commissioners will review the request.
- Banahan asked if the county had any available funds that Cuba could use to remove old houses that the property owners will not? Could the county assist with hauling the debris to the landfill if Cuba tears them down?
- Commissioner Jeardoe suggested that Banahan contact the Road and Bridge supervisor to discuss the issue of removal of debris.
- Banahan invited the commissioners to Cuba for the annual Catholic Church turkey supper on November 3.

Nathan Craig presented for review, Highway, Transportation, Bridge, and turbine project information in the absence of Ken Robbins.

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Craig reported that the bridge on Xaiver Rd near Talmo is now open.
- Crews have been patching and sealing in Scandia this week.
- Hall Bros delivered equipment to Narka on Monday and will start the overlay on Tuesday.
- The truck drivers have been applying gravel to the Blattner roads.

At 10:24 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes regarding employee performance. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Craig, and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:29 a.m., taking no action.

Trish Voth and Molly Morgan, Foulston Siefkin LLP, joined the meeting in person to discuss windfarm user manual regarding documents relating to the High Banks Windfarm.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Jeardoe made a motion to recess into executive session for reasons of Attorney/Client Privilege exception for 15 minutes regarding details of the user manual. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion which Commissioner Splichal made unanimous. Attending the session were the Commissioners, Voth, Morgan, Robbins, Craig, and Clerk Marsicek. Commissioner Splichal requested an additional 25 minutes.

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

Voth requested a meeting in January after the new commissioners are sworn in. A tentative date of January 20 was set for the meeting with the commissioners.

Clerk Marsicek presented for approval paperwork for the longevity bonuses for the department heads. The bonus will be given after December 1.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked if Clerk Marsicek would notify County Attorney, Justin Ferrell, to deliver information about what is the county’s responsibility relating to autopsy expenses for the county by November 12.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Garman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Due to election on November 5 and Veteran’s Day on November 11, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m. to canvass ballots from the general election 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