

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, October 7, 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 Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

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

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the minutes from September 30. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$475,433.12 were approved.

Faye Jones and Donna Moravek from the Health Department joined the meeting. Donna was presented with a retirement plaque for 25 years of service to Republic County Health Department.

Commissioner Garman shared an email from Kansas State Senator Elaine Bowers regarding KDOT's response denying the request for a turning lane on US HWY 36 near the new Central Valley Ag terminal. There will be a re-evaluation of the area requesting the turning lane.

Susan Aaron, Solid Waste administrative assistant, presented for signatures a solid waste agreement between Republic County and the City of Narka.

Travis Boyer, Task Force member, presented a suggestion of gifts cards for the employees as their Christmas gift. If the commissioners had any other suggestions gifts.

Commissioner Garman made a motion to approve the same method of gift cards to local food businesses with the same dollar amounts as 2023. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeardoe shared with Boyer that the COLA for 2025 has not been set.

Boyer reported that one of the county employee benefits, Unum Long Term Care, may double in premium in 2025. The discussion of discontinuing this benefit has been discussed over the past few years because only one employee has used it since it was added to the employee package several years ago.

Sheriff David Cox presented a quote to install a security camera in the District Court office and to replace the very old panic buttons throughout the courthouse to be reviewed.

Cox reported that he took the proposed plans for the armory remodel to the Belleville City Police Chief Chris Springer. Springer will present them at the city council meeting on Monday, October 14.

Cox reported that Deputy Shawn Sprayberry has been in Hutchinson training to become a Drug Recognition Expert. Sprayberry will be one of only a few deputies in Kansas that have this recognition.

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

- The weekly community concerns and projects completed report.
- Robbins will be taking some time off this week and Craig will be in charge of the R&B department.
- Robbins stated that all the fuel pumps at the county fuel center have been updated.

- Robbins reported that the Cloud County solid waste department notified him that the trucking company that hauled the solid waste to Topeka has not renewed their contract, and they will be advertising for a new trucking company to remove the solid waste to the dumping site.
- Robbins noted that all the patching has been completed in Republic County and sealing the roads will begin.
- The second dump truck that was purchased has been picked up and is in Belleville.
- Robbins reported that a bridge on Valley Rd will need to be replaced. A new weight limit sign has been posted until the replacement can be scheduled.

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 Garman made a motion to recess into executive session for reasons of Attorney/Client Privilege exception for 30 minutes regarding details of the user manual. Commissioner Jeardoe 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 15 minutes.

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

Voth and Morgan will return on October 28th to finalize the requested changes.

Raymond Raney, Emergency Manager, reported that there were several fires in the county and close to the surrounding borders that required several of the fire departments to respond.

Raney presented a new quote for new antennas if the county decides to move the location of the county emergency towers and repeaters. If a new location is approved, the county will need easement access and move the current building and components.

Raney reported that with updates in computers and software the current plotters will not operate, and new plotters need to be purchased. There are two plotters in the courthouse. One in the Appraisers' mapping room and one in the dispatch area. Salina Blue Equipment quoted both a 24" and 36" plotter.

Raney discussed the outstanding projects awaiting completion that could use the ARPA funds.

With all agenda items completed, Commissioner Garman made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Commissioner Splichal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 14, 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