

**MINUTES OF**  
**BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**July 14, 2008**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on July 14, 2008 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Roberson attended the Partnership meeting last Friday and reported on several projects that are currently in progress in the Newton area. Some of the projects she reported on are the renovations at Northridge School and Lindley Hall, the Sand Creek Bank Restoration Project, the overlay on K-15 through downtown Newton, the proposed motel/conference center, and the YMCA study.
2. Don Esch has received a 90 day extension to submit a request to the Conservation District for partial payment of the installation of a septic system at his residence. The wet weather has delayed the work on the system.

Minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Republican Party Ice Cream Social will be held July 31 at Athletic Park.
2. The Aviation Board meeting will be held on July 21 at 4:00 p.m.
3. Bid openings for the slurry seal projects and the cold recycling on Old Trail Road will be next Monday during Commission meeting.
4. The public hearing with Floodplain Management regarding the new flood plain maps will be held on August 7 in the Courthouse Community Room.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. July 14 is the final day for protests to be received with regard to the property purchased for the development of the new fairgrounds. No protests have been received at this time.
2. Margaret Hermstein, Register of Deeds, was hospitalized for a short time last week and checked for a possible heart attack. It was determined that she did not have a heart attack and has now returned to work.
3. Construction has begun on a compass pad at the Newton City/County Airport. There will be a disruption at the airport for approximately 30 to 60 days.
4. Craig forwarded a letter from Tina Payne, Director of Health Ministries, stating that there is no longer a dentist to provide dental services for qualifying patients. They will continue to look for someone to fill this position.
5. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to appoint James Anderson to the Harvey County Mental Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to appoint Dennis McDonough and Neva Frey to the Harvey County Council on Aging. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

With the exception of a check to Copies & More, warrant checks were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

John Waltner talked with Bob Meier, Newton City Attorney, requesting information on the status of the lawsuit filed by the American Legion against the Clean Air Ordinance passed by the City Commission. The City of Newton will ask the court for a Summary Judgment.

Myrna Krehbiel, Executive Director of Peace Connections, presented a funding request of \$5,225 for the 2009 budget year for the Bridges out of Poverty Task Force to establish a "Circles Initiative" in Harvey County. This is a training program to identify the causes of poverty and the solutions. A Stakeholders meeting was held a week ago with Community leaders to emphasize what changes could be made if the poverty cycle within this County were to be reduced. Tina Payne, Director of Health Ministries and Commissioner Roberson will be attending a meeting in August to be involved in forming a task force.

Rich Hanley, Director of Department on Aging, presented the proposed 2009 Department on Aging budget. The total operating expenses have decreased somewhat. RSVP volunteer mileage will increase some, but the overall budget for RSVP will decrease some also. Rich reported that the Department on Aging now has a stable department in terms of personnel. The Department coordinates with 36 different entities. They set goals that are reachable but not too low. Some of the goals for 2009 is to target folks that are over the age of 60 but still working, to send out the newsletter electronically, to work as an advocate here in the County, State, and Nation, and pursue new grants. Staff travel has been cut in half. Marianne Eichelberger expressed appreciation for the funding for the ENLITE program which provides large print books to folks who need them.

Louise Smith, representative from the Hesston Senior Center thanked the Commission for funding that allowed them to hire a part-time secretary for the center. The attendance at the Center has increased with the addition of Bridge every Wednesday afternoon. A trip to Savannah Georgia was arranged by the center and attended by 48 people. 220 people participated in a health fair and exercise program that was sponsored by the Center this year. The annual fish fry will be held the last Friday in July.

Debi Rodgers, representative from the Newton Senior Center expressed appreciation for support from the County. The Newton Center has requested increased funding for operating expenses. Dorothy Kennedy, representative from the Sedgwick Senior Center, also thanked the Commission for their support. The Center there continues to grow. They hold a game night on a regular basis and encourage folks from other Centers to participate. Their revenues have increased by \$1,800, and they are in the process of submitting grants to possibly build a new building. They have especially enjoyed the WII purchased by the Senior Center Association, and shared by all the Senior Centers in the County. They have also been able to attend several workshops.

Carolyn Johnson, representative from the Walton Senior Center, said their budget increased by \$200.

Since no representatives from the Burrton Center were at the meeting, Commissioner Westfall asked Rich if he would find out why the increase in the Burrton proposed budget was so high. Also attending the meeting were Mary Lou Elder and Dennis McDonough, Halstead; Donald Cox, Sedgwick; and Robert Carlton, Harvey County Senior Advisory Board Member.

Marion Rowland, Lloyd Stoddard, and Susan Dixon presented the proposed 2009 Parks budget. Also attending were 4 members of the Parks Board. Included in the budget is a proposed increase of \$5.00 per month for storage fees at West Park. Also included is a capital improvement request of \$7,645 for the upgrade of camping pads at East Park, a request for a Kawasaki Mule at West Park, and \$3,000 to repair the brakes on the tractor at Camp Hawk.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:00

After reconvening at 1:15 p.m., Becky Noble, Treasurer, presented the proposed 2009 Treasurer's budget. Ms. Noble will subcontract the printing, stuffing, and mailing of the tax statements this year. There is a provision in the 2009 budget to continue with that service.

Courtney Becker, Directory of Communications, presented the proposed 2009 budget. Their focus for 2009 is not concentrated on any large projects, but to just be in the office and work on things that have taken the back seat to larger projects. The budget contains an increase in regular salaries to accommodate the hiring of another full-time dispatcher, but a decrease in part-time wages. There will also be an increase in alarm fees which will generate monies to offset the increase in salaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

#### BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman

ATTEST:

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Member

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County Clerk

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Member