

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 22, 2005

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 22, 2005 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the February 14, 2005 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Meier. Passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Craig Simons updated the Commission regarding the 2004 list of accomplishments. Of the charge of \$.50 per month for wireless phone service, the County receives \$.25 and the other \$.25 goes into a pool to help fund grants for the installation of new wireless systems in other areas of the State. The KAC keeps \$.01 or less for collecting and administering the fund. SE 60th was vacated in order to build a watershed dam. However, according to Jim Michaels, the project was stopped after finding volcanic ash and gypsum in the area. They are studying the situation to determine the effect on fish and wildlife and the road remains closed.

The bridge on County Line Road with Butler County in Section 25, Richland Township, has not been repaired yet.

2. Craig Clough, Harvey County Appraiser, informed the Commission that property value notices are being mailed this week. According to the Abstract of Appraised Values, the increase including new construction is 3.2%, and excluding new construction the increase is 1.7% compared with last year's values.

Dan Hermes, the lobbyist hired in regard to the tax-exempt status of retirement homes, reported that Senator Allen would not give the bill a hearing. In order for the issue to gain enough support to move forward he feels that there either has to be a more significant tax impact in Johnson, Shawnee, and Sedgwick County, or a tax chairman would have to make it a priority issue. Mr. Hermes feels the issue is intractable at this time.

Ralph Roux attended Citizens Forum and reported that his valuation has increased \$5,000 in the last two years. He also noted that SE 36th Street is in bad shape and needs to be graded.

Mary Ann Eichelberger, Director of the Newton Public Library, gave the Commissioners a report on public library usage and updated them on changes this year at the Newton Public Library. The library is using a newer automation system and now has a website for 24 hour access. The library is also administering the Enlite program, enabling seniors and disabled citizens better access to reading materials. Ms. Eichelberger thanked the County for their continued support.

Sheriff Byron Motter presented the findings on the price comparisons between Wilson Pharmacy and Diamond Pharmaceuticals for purchasing inmate pharmaceuticals. By comparison, for the month of December, Diamond would provide a savings of 16.25% and 15.39% for the month of January. Both Wilson Pharmacy and Hesston Pharmacy have declined to provide emergency

pharmaceuticals if the County contracts with Diamond. The Commissioners agreed to table the decision for two months and monitor the prices during that time. Sheriff Motter will report back in April.

Lonnie Buller, Emergency Management Director, reported on a meeting held on February 18, 2005 to provide information regarding assistance in the ice storm cleanup. Representatives from FEMA and the State of Kansas met with representatives from thirteen townships, seven cities, Kidron Bethel, Friendly Acres, Hillside Cemetery, and Bethel College. A project officer has been assigned to assist these entities in receiving aid for the cleanup. The County has to have a mutual aid agreement with the cities that received help from Harvey County in order for the County to receive reimbursement for the overtime and equipment.

Warrant checks were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meier and passed unanimously.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter received from Rebecca Floyd regarding the application of Vernon L. and Michelle L. Stump to participate in the Beginning Farmer program with a 40-acre tract. No action was taken to prevent the application to proceed further.

The Commission left at 11:25 to have lunch at the Health Department. At 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Meier made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

ATTEST:

Member

County Clerk

Member