

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 27, 2006

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 27, 2006 with all three Commissioners present. Chairperson Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Meier expressed appreciation for the way the joint City-County meeting was conducted. The February 22 meeting was held to discuss the possibility of a countywide sales tax instead of a Newton citywide sales tax.
2. Jim Rediger, Burrton City Councilman, contacted Commissioner Krehbiel regarding the City of Burrton Water well area at 12th and Burmac that was used to obtain water for the emergency response vehicles to fight the recent grass fires in the western part of the County. Mr. Rediger has suggested that for future needs the hill in that area be planed down on the west and the north so the emergency trucks could circle around the area to exit instead of having to back up. This change would not alter any drainage or visibility. He will contact the Commission at a later date.

The minutes of the February 21, 2006 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. On the recommendation of Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, Commissioner Krehbiel moved to extend the burn ban in the County for another week. Commissioner Meier seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. The burn ban could be lifted within the seven days on the discretion of Mr. Buller.
2. Leslie Sweazy presented the second reading for two appointments to the RSVP advisory board. Commissioner Meier made a motion to approve the appointment of Eva Lee Butin and Felix Cormier to the RSVP advisory board. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
3. All three Commissioners will attend the Water Conference on March 16, 2006 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka.
4. Workforce Alliance, Area #4, is having an open house for their new building in Wichita on March 10, at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Warrant checks were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Passed unanimously.

Tina Payne, Director of Health Ministries, presented a funding request for the new Community Health Center Health Ministries Clinic. Steve Kelley, President of Newton Medical Center, Susan Rhoades, President of Health Ministries Clinic, and John Torline, Vice-President, also attended in support of the request. Health Ministries Clinic plans to hire a physician as a half-time medical

director. This is a requirement to become a federally qualified Community Health Center look-alike. They would also like to hire a full-time billing clerk to process Medicare and Medicaid filings. There will be a cost of increasing the Medicaid patient load until full reimbursement can be obtained after the Health Ministries Clinic is designated a Federal Look-Alike. The funding request is a one-time request for money in addition to \$15,000 already committed by Harvey County. Newton Medical Center has agreed to match the County portion of \$44,980. Commissioner Meier made a motion to approve the request of \$33,980 plus \$5,000 in computer support for Health Ministries. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Byron Motter, Harvey County Sheriff, presented the findings of the investigation of the wildfire that burned 8,800 acres in western Harvey County on February 9 and 10. Also attending were Under-sheriff Steve Bayless, Emergency Management Director, Lonnie Buller, and Detectives, B. J. Tyner, and Jim Sauerwein. Although the investigation has been concluded, no determination was made on exactly how the fire was started other than the fact that there was human involvement. There was a controlled burn conducted by the Burrton Fire Department on Saturday, February 4. At least two witnesses noticed some spots within the controlled burn area that were still smoldering on Wednesday, February 8, the day before the fire started on Thursday. The wind gusts were very high on the day the fire started. Chairperson Roberson commended the Sheriff's department and all the other units from outlying areas that responded and helped to fight the fire.

Craig Clough, Harvey County Appraiser, presented proposals for updating aerial photography for Harvey County. The photography should be updated approximately every five years; however, the photography that Harvey County currently uses was done ten years ago. Commissioner Meier moved to authorize the Appraiser to proceed with the proposals for aerial photography and sign the contract with the company of his choice. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Annual valuation notices will be sent from the Appraiser's Office on March 1.

The Commissioners recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m. Craig Simons reported that he has met with staff of all seven cities in Harvey County regarding the possibility of a countywide additional 1% sales tax rather than a Newton citywide sales tax. The City of Newton has proposed a compromise as to the distribution of the proposed tax. In this plan, the City of Newton would receive 53.88% of the sales tax on the basis of Newton having 53.88% of the total population of Harvey County. Based on this percentage, the City of Newton would receive approximately \$2,800,300 of the new 1% tax. Each of the cities would have to reduce the amounts they would receive by 16.69%. The County had already offered to reduce the amount of their distribution from the current 1% county sales tax. Craig will contact all the cities to see if they can submit the decision of their councils to the Harvey County Board of Commissioners by next Monday, March 6. The plan for this type of distribution would have to be submitted as legislation written by Harvey County we would have to have interlocal agreements between the City of Newton and all the other County cities. It is still uncertain as to the type and date of the election will be held regarding the sales tax issue.

Commissioner Meier made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

ATTEST:

Member

County Clerk

Member