

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2006

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 6, 2006 with all three Commissioners present. Chairperson Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that the Burrton Fire Department may be asking for extra funds since they have already used one third of their budget to fight the wildfire in the Burrton area.
2. Dr. Davidson has reconstructed the privacy berms he built around his property near the Hutchinson Water Sports area. The Commission had requested the reconstruction because the intersection there was visually restricted because of the berms.
3. In response to a complaint, Commissioner Krehbiel asked who is responsible for maintaining the ditch in the area one mile east of Burrton and one quarter south. The ditch there is blocked, causing water to back up into Ted Jones's pasture. Craig Simons will determine who the property owner is where the blockage is located.
4. Chairperson Roberson talked with Carolyn McGinn regarding the delay of the gaming vote in the State Legislature. Senator Barone's son is the lobbyist for Sumner County, who wants to be considered as a destination casino site. There is concern regarding conflict of interest. Senator McGinn will keep Harvey County informed.

The minutes of the February 27, 2006 meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Craig Simons reported that Friday, March 3 was the deadline for proposals for the waste-to-energy project. Four proposals were received.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to accept the contract for Stutzman Refuse Disposal to manage and operate the Harvey County Recycling Center. Commissioner Meier seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Stutzman has agreed to accept the new recycling items that have been designated by Harvey County, which is a change in the contract from last year.
3. All three Commissioners will attend the Works Conference on March 28, which will be held in Great Bend.
4. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, recommended that the burn ban be extended for another seven days. Commissioner Krehbiel made the motion to extend the ban and Commissioner Meier seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
5. In regard to the property burned during the recent wildfire, Craig Clough, Harvey County Appraiser, reported that property is valued by the condition of the property on January 1, regardless of whether the property is destroyed or loses value at a later date during the year. Mr. Clough will check with the State to see if any consideration can be made for the landowners involved.

6. The Crossings, the proposed subdivision for the Halstead Annexation, was approved by the Halstead City Council last week. This annexation request will be presented within the next thirty days. This will be an island annexation, which by requirement of state statute, will have to be approved by the County Commission.

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

Marianne Eichelberger, Director of the Newton Public Library, gave the 2005 annual report. Overall circulation has decreased, but this is a trend in libraries nationwide. Use of electronic media is one of the factors in the decrease. The Library participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty Program, in which the Library tries to reach people who are struggling with poverty, and connect them with resources that will help them get ahead in the world. The library will hold a special celebration on September 27, which will commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Newton Public Library.

Chairperson Roberson attended a legislative hearing in Topeka with the House Taxation Committee last Friday to answer questions regarding the possibility of initiating a countywide sales tax increase of one percent. Representative Tom Thull made a motion in the legislature to add Harvey County to a bill which already had three counties requesting a sales tax increase. The motion was passed unanimously. The bill will be worked in the legislature this week. Senator Carolyn McGinn has been briefed. Craig Simons has support commitments from every city in Harvey County except Burrton, but he and John Waltner will meet with the Mayor and one Councilman this evening to discuss the issue. Al Penner and John Torline, representatives from North Newton; Craig Cox, Harvey County Counselor; Bob Meyer and Jim Heinecke, representatives from the City of Newton; and John Waltner, Hesston Mayor, were in attendance.

The 2005 annual Harvey County Parks Report will be postponed until next week due to the illness of Marion Rowland, Director of Parks.

Commissioner Meier moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

ATTEST:

Member

County Clerk

Member