

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 11, 2006

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on September 11, 2006 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting.

ITEMS TO ADD TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel has been asked by REAP to give an update on Harvey County's plans for the waste-to-energy project at the next meeting to be held on October 16, 2006.
2. REAP has begun the formalized process of amending the REAP interlocal agreement which will make it a separate legal entity. This process needs to be completed by the end of October.
3. There will be a 7:30 a.m. REAP international trade meeting at the Wichita Hyatt on Tuesday, September 12.
4. The Commissioners have been contacted by some Harvey County employees regarding the possibility of donating a day of sick or vacation leave to a fellow employee who has run out of leave after having suffered a stroke. After discussion, the conclusion was that it would be better to take up a donation from all the departments for the employee.
5. There will be a meeting regarding Court security in Moundridge at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13.

The minutes were corrected and approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Passed unanimously.

Commissioner Roberson received a letter from Rita Rookstool, from Shawnee county requesting information regarding the waste-to-energy project in Harvey County.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Chairman Roberson signed the 2007 budget sheets for the Harvey County Extension Council.
2. Craig Simons has contacted Bill Black of Darlington Township regarding Chisholm Lane Road. Mr. Black said if the County would bring the road up to standard, the Township would be willing to maintain it. A benefit district would have to be set up and then the residents would be contacted with estimates of how much this maintenance would cost. The residents would then decide if they are willing to pay for the maintenance.
3. A public hearing for residents of the 2001 Westside Annexation, which includes Royer West, Hidden Meadows, and Lazy Creek, has been scheduled for October 9th at 7:00 p.m. This hearing must be held five years after the annexation according to K.S.A. 12-531. Residents will discuss whether the City of Newton has performed its Service Extension Plan in the annexed area.
4. The overlay project on 24th Street in North Newton will begin today.

CITIZEN S'FORUM:

Dennis Franz, a Newton businessman, attended the meeting to discuss the waste-to-energy program. He expressed opposition to the project because of possible pollution concerns. He plans to organize a group to oppose the proposal. The Commissioners will hold public hearings at a later date to discuss the issues involved.

Warrant Checks were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Passed unanimously.

Tom Williams, Asbury Park CEO, presented a request for bonds in the amount of five million dollars to help finance the Greenhouses, nursing home units that are designed to emulate a home situation with ten residents per home. This money will be used to finance four units. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve and authorize the Commission to sign **Resolution No. 2006-23**, Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

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

At 1:30 p.m. a public information hearing regarding the possible closing of Northview Developmental Center was held in the Courthouse Community Room. Frank Stahl and Greg , representatives from Community Supports & Services of the SRS Department answered questions. They reassured those in attendance that in working with the CDDO, there will always be services for developmentally disabled in Harvey County. Citizens will not be shipped to other communities and states to obtain services. Northview has been both the CDDO and the service provider for Harvey County. Is required to contract and work with SRS to assure that clients are provided with the services needed. Since it has been determined that Northview has not met all of the criteria to be licensed as a service provider, SRS has taken action to close the facility on September 30, 2006. Northview has legally appealed this decision. The legal aspects of the licensing of Northview will be dealt with through the legal process. Services will continue during the appeal process.

Dave Osborn, a member of the Northview Board of Directors, spoke in support of the new management there, and asked for patience as changes are starting to be implemented. The progress is slow, but moving forward.

Victoria Adame, former Board member of Northview, also spoke in support of Northview staying open. Northview has and is making a significant contribution to this community. The Staff goes above and beyond to make sure the clients are served. She expressed concern about the process by which clients and staff were notified of the impending closure, which would certainly make an impact on the community in both loss of services, and loss of jobs.

Jack Atchison, recently moved four companies to Newton because of the success he has had employing Northview clients. The plant is completely staffed by Northview clients. This type of job situation provides respect and dignity to clients in a workplace setting

Mr. Stahl explained that closure is not the only solution, and that SRS has no agenda in closing Northview. There is an on-site staff person at Northview who completes the evaluations, but SRS cannot be compliant officers and training officers at the same time.

Northview was granted a provisional license in November, which was extended in February until June 30, 2006. They were notified of specific problems that needed to be corrected. The communication required a corrective action regarding outcome based services. SRS has not received

anything from Northview that states how these requirements have been achieved.

Virgil Penner, past Board member, reminded those in attendance that this is a community problem. We all need to work together to get Northview back on track. Mr. Penner requested that the Commissioners facilitate the necessary requirements to assure that Northview can once again be licensed.

The task force that was organized to study the problems at Northview will meet Tuesday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioner Westfall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

ATTEST:

Member

County Clerk

Member