

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

**March 16, 2009**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 16, 2009 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Chairman Roberson received a letter from the Craft family expressing opposition to the proposed cell phone tower in Sedgwick. The hearing for the proposed Alltel tower will be held March 30.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend the Community Corrections meeting on March 19 at 12:00 p.m.
2. Chairman Roberson will attend the KCAMP meeting on Thursday, March 19 in Topeka.
3. The Council of Governments will not meet at the regular scheduled time on Wednesday, but instead will participate in a teleconference regarding stimulus funds which will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19.

Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, reported that he lifted the burn ban over the weekend. However, he recommended that the burn ban be reinstated today through next Monday because of predicted warmer weather and windy conditions. Lonnie will have the authority to cancel the ban if weather permits, however notification of the Commissioners will be required. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to institute the burn ban and Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. With regard to a question presented at last week's meeting, the reason that Prestressed Concrete products are not used very often for bridges in the County is that the Prestressed beams are thicker and therefore work best on higher bridges. Thicker beams on lower bridges can trap debris under the bridges. Harvey County has built a couple of bridges that are post-tension bridges that allow longer spans and allow debris to pass through without becoming trapped. Prestressed bridges are also more expensive to build. Other bridges in the County are haunch slab bridges.
3. There was a question at a prior Commission meeting regarding a charge for a Christmas party for the County Attorney's Office. The charge included a dinner and a show. The Commission may wish to establish a policy on paying for

- department Christmas parties prior to the next Christmas season.
4. Craig Simons checked with Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, about a complaint about trash blowing out of the semis that transfer trash from Harvey County to the Reno County Landfill. The loads are always tarped, but one of the tarps may have become loose allowing trash to blow out.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

1. Barbara Bunting, candidate for USD 373 School Board, introduced herself to the Commission and asked if there was anything that the Commission would like to Communicate to the School Board. There will be a forum held on March 26 at McKinley Auditorium where all the school board candidates will participate.
2. Carla Stauffer asked the Commissioners about the burn ban. She was unaware the ban had been lifted last weekend until it was too late to burn. Commissioner Krehbiel suggested she contact the fire chief of the Walton Fire District to ask for special permission to burn for agricultural purposes during the burn ban.
3. Dave Allison returned to the meeting to ask about the Park fees at East Lake. He lives in a camper at East Park through the winter months. The Park Board will have to review the rates in order for them to be permanently changed; however, Craig Simons said that the old lower rates will apply until the Park Board can review them and make a final decision. Chairman Roberson thanked Mr. Allison for bringing the issues at the Park before the Commission.
4. T Walton, Sheriff, reported that the stimulus plan has earmarked \$68,000 in funding for the Harvey County Sheriff's Office and the City of Newton Police Department. The City of Newton will be required to write the grant application. They plan to use their portion to update their patrol cars and Harvey County would like to update their software program.
5. Carla Stauffer reported on the Harvey County Special Olympics program. They are sending five teams to the Kansas Special Olympics competition in Hays this weekend. There will be 100 athletes plus staff and families that will be attending from Harvey County.

Warrant checks were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Shirley Faulkner, Director of Substance Abuse Services at Prairie View, presented a request for a portion of the liquor drink tax funds that Harvey County receives. This is the first time in 55 years that they have asked for this type of funding, but with budget cuts from the State, there will be a shortfall of approximately \$73,000 in funding for substance abuse programs. There are four counties that Prairie View serves with these programs, Harvey, Reno, McPherson, and Marion. Funding is being sought from each of the counties and the cities within the counties. Ms. Faulkner submits that if the treatment programs are discontinued, public safety is at risk. There will be increased crime which will definitely stretch our law enforcement agencies. Commissioner Roberson inquired as to the difference between the Mirror Inc. programs and the Prairie View programs. Ms. Faulkner explained that most of the clients have dual disorders. In

addition to substance abuse, they may also be illiterate, have anxiety, depression, attachment disorder, etc. Mirror is licensed to treat only substance abuse. Prairie View is licensed to also deal with the other disorders in addition to the substance abuse. Prairie View is one of only two centers in the State of Kansas that treats adolescents. Craig Simons stated that what we currently receive from liquor drink tax revenues is used for the detention center to fund programs for the inmates. A literacy teacher for the inmates is one of the programs that is currently funded by the tax.

Todd Hanchett, Undersheriff, presented one bid that was received for the installation of equipment in sheriff patrol cars. Bids were to have been submitted by 10:30 a.m. Although bid requests were sent to five companies, only one bid was received and it was not a sealed bid, it was received by FAX. The actual bid opening will be postponed until 11:00 a.m. next week. Todd will check and see why no one else bid. If other companies want to bid, they can submit a bid before the designated time next Monday, March 23.

At 9:42 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of fifteen minutes to discuss legal issues. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Greg Nye, County Counselor; Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste; Charlie Summers, Fiscal Officer; and John Waltner, Director of Special Projects were also in attendance.

Executive session ended at 9:57 a.m. with no action being taken.

Roy Patton checked on the cost of the Harvey County Transfer Station having a medical waste disposing program. It would be cost prohibitive as it would cost \$295 for a 30-gallon container that would hold the red sharp's disposal containers. The Health Department currently pays \$25.00 per month for sharp's disposal.

The Commission left at 11:00 a.m. for the Quad-County Meeting to be held at the Hutchinson Airport Steak House.

Chairman Roberson adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

#### BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Marge Roberson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

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Ron Krehbiel, Member