

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 11, 2009

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 11, 2009 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that there is flooding at Burmac Road where the road crosses the Little Arkansas River due to recent rains. There is possible damage to the bridge on 36th Street because of a very large driftwood jam wedged against the bridge.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that Saline County is building a firearms range on County owned land.
3. Commissioners Westfall and Roberson reported on information they received at the KCCA Conference with regard to lowering health insurance premiums paid by the County. Rob Mahoney is a consultant who specializes in aiding counties in negotiating their health insurance.
4. The USDA has announced that there will be stimulus money available to aid in the insulation of buildings to reduce utility costs. The buildings that will be moved from the old fairgrounds site to the new fairgrounds site may qualify for some of these funds.
5. Chairman Roberson presented an article that was published in the Parade Magazine titled "Why We Must Fix Our Prisons" by Senator Webb of Virginia.
6. Commissioner Roberson attended the Public Partnership breakfast last Friday. The City of North Newton has purchased the wooded area near the old Graber Nursery. A walking path will be constructed in the area. Commissioner Roberson also reported that Hutchinson Community College, Newton Branch, is seeing an increase in traditional students as opposed to non-traditional students. This is thought to be caused by the economic downturn.
7. The Commission discussed parking issues that are continuing to increase at the Courthouse. Commissioner Westfall has received complaints from both employees and public. The middle parking lot south of the courthouse was recently designated as parking for Newton Police Department and Sheriff's Office only.
8. Commissioner Roberson, Craig Simons, and John Waltner met with Willis Heck, Tim Johnson, and Jim Daily, of the City of Newton to attempt to find a space for Community Corrections to perform juvenile intake interviews. The space they currently use at the Newton Department will no longer be available because the space they occupied is needed by the Police Department. Community Corrections needs a space that is accessible to law enforcement personnel. There is a small

9. room in the basement that is being considered, but no definite decision was made. However, an extension of 30 days was given to Community Corrections to find a new space.
10. Commissioner Roberson informed the Commission that the Harvey County CDDO funding is being cut by \$167,000 because of the State budget cuts. Craig Simons said that investment income is down for the County and that there will be no money for the slider payment, which was funds to replace the revenue lost when commercial personal property was made exempt in 2007.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The aviation meeting is being moved from Monday, May 18 to Wednesday, May 27th at 4:00 p.m.
2. There will be a Harvey County Council of Governments meeting held on Wednesday, May 13.

Minutes of the May 4, 2009 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Rita Flickinger, Director of the Health Department, gave the Commission an update on the status of the recent outbreak of Swine Flu. There is one possible case in Harvey County, but confirmation has not yet been received. There are 22 confirmed cases in the State of Kansas. The Health Department has received 150 doses of anti-viral medication as a safety precaution. It is uncertain when or how this medication will be used. There is an expiration date of January, 2010 on some of the doses. The Swine Flu Virus can die out as the weather gets warmer and can then recur again in the Fall. There is concern that if a person does contract the virus they will be very susceptible to other illnesses.
2. Rita also reported that there is a problem with the air conditioner at the Health Department. It was discovered that there is a hole in one of the Freon lines. She reported that there are also parking problems at the Health Department. Several employees have had to pay parking tickets for parking in 2-hour parking.
3. Sheriff T. Walton informed the Commission that several Sheriff's officers went into a home in the City of Sedgwick with the intent of confiscating computers at the residence because of suspected kiddie porn. They discovered marijuana growing in the basement.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

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

Marion Rowland, Director of Parks, presented the annual report for the Harvey County Parks. Income for the Parks in 2008 was down most probably due to unusually high gas prices last

summer. Permit income increased in only fishing fees and horse trail fees. Commissioner Roberson asked if the information presented could be broken out by East Park, West Park, or Camp Hawk, comparing each with figures from prior years. Commissioner Krehbiel asked why the daily electricity permit income at West Park was significantly higher than at East Park. Mr. Rowland will check to see if there was a major event at West Park that would account for the increased amount there.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman Roberson.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Marge Roberson, Chairman

ATTEST:

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

Ron Krehbiel, Member