

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 1, 2010

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on June 1, 2010 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported on the joint city/county meeting held last Wednesday regarding the proposed rail route that would travel through the City of Newton. KDOT provided information, answered questions, and asked for feedback from those attending the meeting. There are four possible options which varied according to the number of stops and day or night service. The cost varied from \$150 million to \$400 million.
2. Scott Davies, Director of Planning and Zoning, reported on the open house held last week to provide information on the new FEMA flood maps. The open house was attended by approximately 150 people. Because of the changes, flood insurance costs for property owners could increase from \$350 per year to \$1,250 per year.
3. Commissioner Westfall stated that Craig Simons is still listed as an alternate member of the SCKEDD Board of Directors. A replacement appointment will need to be made.
4. Commissioner Westfall reported that the new roof on the Detention Center leaked during the rains over the weekend. Sheriff T. Walton said that the installation of the flashing on the roof has not yet been completed which caused the roof to leak in those areas.
5. Commissioner Krehbiel expressed concern with regard to the upcoming budget season. With requests for significantly increased funding from several tax supported entities, the development of the County Fairgrounds, the Logistics Park, funding cuts from the State, funding cuts from the Federal Government, and county employees who did not receive any wage increase in 2010, the task of balancing all the needs will be difficult. Harvey County has the third highest unemployment rate for this region.
6. Commissioner Krehbiel received a complaint that the East Lake Bait Shop was not open on Wednesday, May 26, as advertised.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

No new items were added to the calendar.

Minutes of the May 24, 2010 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John reminded the Commissioners about the Wellness Committee sack lunch which will be held at Athletic Park on Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.
2. The Solid Waste Regional Meeting will be held at the Airport Steakhouse in Hutchinson on Thursday. Commissioner Westfall will not be able to attend.
3. John presented a recommendation for the reappointment of Larry Schmitt to the Parks Advisory Board. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to waive the one week waiting period and reappoint Mr. Schmitt to the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board for a three year term to expire in May of 2013. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
4. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to reappoint Byron Motter and Eugene Wendling to the Harvey County Public Building Commission for a term of three years which will expire in June of 2012.
5. Notices need to be published regarding intent to seek USDA financing.
6. Discussion was held regarding supplemental pay to Magistrate Judges. Johnson County and Harvey County are the only two counties in the State of Kansas that chose to make supplemental payments to Magistrate Judges. After Johnson County was audited, counties are no longer allowed to make direct supplemental payment to the judges. Legislation requires that the payments be made to the State who will then pay the judges after all necessary withholdings are deducted. Jerry Sloan from the state judicial office has sent an agreement requesting that the County send a lump sum for the entire amount of the remaining payments for 2010. It is unknown at this time whether Harvey County will be required to pay withholdings for the prior years of payments to the Magistrate Judge. Johnson County was required to pay three prior years of withholdings. If Harvey County is required to pay three years the liability would be approximately \$5,300.
7. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the Holiday weekend went pretty well for the Sheriff's Department, although they spent a lot of time at East Lake.
8. Phil Adams, Superintendent of Road & Bridge, reported that the Department is patching on West Dutch Avenue and working on the taxiway project at the Newton City/County Airport. Pilings are still being driven for the replacement of the bridge on West 12th Street, which is scheduled for completion in August.
9. Discussion was held regarding the membership of Harvey County in the South Central Kansas Economic Development District. Membership in the 14 member District is up for renewal at a cost of \$5,587.73. The Commission continues to be concerned about how and where the money is distributed within the District. Budget requests for the District indicate that administrative salaries are being increased significantly. There seems to be a lack of communication which hampers the ability for Harvey County to obtain money for programs administered through SCKEDD, one of which is the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.
10. Commissioner Westfall suggested that the Commission still needs to look at county road development and adopt some regulations as to the requirements for building a road.

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 Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Cheney, Director of Noxious Weeds, presented the proposed 2011 budget. The budget remains the same as the 2010 budget with the exception of a capital outlay request of \$1,200 for new radio units in three vehicles. The other difference in the budget is a reduction of \$3,000 in chemical sale reimbursement. The Commission will take the budget under advisement.

John Waltner gave a brief report on the REAP Water Conference held in El Dorado last week. The conference dealt with the impact of urbanization on water quality. Many surveys have been done in the last 30 or 40 years, which indicates how significantly water can be affected by runoff from streets, parking lots, and farm ground. A coal tar based seal coat used on some streets and parking lots has been shown to have significant carcinogenic chemical impact on streams and rivers. There is a particular type of seal coat used on parking lots and streets, coal tar based seal coat, is a significant carcinogen and has significant impact on streams and rivers. Harvey County does not use the coal tar based seal coat.

Margaret Hermstein, Register of Deeds, presented the proposed 2011 budget for the Register of Deeds office. The budget included small increases in the line items for training and equipment maintenance. Ms. Hermstein feels the office is understaffed and underpaid in comparison with other Register of Deeds offices in the State. The Commission will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of hiring a temporary person to assist with budget preparation. John will communicate with the Commission if the need becomes pressing.

Discussion was held regarding the handling of solid waste in Harvey County and the ICM experiment to burn municipal solid waste. Solid waste disposal continues to be a priority for the Commission.

Twenty applications were received for the position of Director at the Harvey County Health Department. The current director, Rita Flickinger, will retire at the end of June, 2010.

At 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss economic development. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session was County Counselor Greg Nye. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. following the lunch break.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ron Krehbiel, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

Marge Roberson, Member