

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

**March 22, 2010**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 22, 2010 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Westfall reported that on Wednesday, March 17, John Waltner, Commissioner Westfall, Joyce Truskett, and Counselor Greg Nye attended a meeting with Rural Fire District #1 regarding an increase of funding for the district. The funding increase would have to be voted on by persons living within the Fire District #1 area.
2. Commissioner Westfall questioned where the new Westar substation is located on South Anderson. Phil Adams reported that it will be located between SW 24th and SW 36th Street. The Road and Bridge Department has been hauling culverts to the site.
3. Commissioner Westfall reported that the Salina Journal published an article which stated that there will be a survey done by the Kansas Geological Survey to map the aquifers for Harvey, Reno, and McPherson Counties.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend a meeting of the South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners and Engineers on April 1 at the Golden Prairie Convention Center in Hutchinson.
2. Commissioners Krehbiel and Westfall will attend a meeting with Kansas Public Telecommunications Service (KPTS) at the Breadbasket on April 15 at 8:00 a.m.
3. Commissioner Roberson will attend the ReNewton meeting Tuesday, March 23 at the Newton City Building.
4. Commissioner Westfall will attend a REAP Executive Committee meeting in Wichita on March 30th at 12:00 noon to discuss an application from Frontier Airlines to participate in the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.

Minutes of the March 15, 2010 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reminded the Commission that the WORKS Conference will begin in Junction City tomorrow. None of the Commissioners have registered to attend; however, there will be a session on renewable energy, which might be of interest to the Commissioners. Roy Patton, Director of the Harvey County Transfer Station, will attend.

2. Courtney Becker, Director of 911 Communications, has provided a copy of an e-mail communication that he sent to the Kansas 911 e-mail group for consideration. Courtney expressed his concern about SB 48, which has been amended by the Senate Utilities Committee. There appears to be personal agendas and political battles being played out without regard to the implications for 911 departments. At issue is funding for departments, which is currently not properly adequate to fund 911 operations. The Senate Bill proposes the creation of additional oversight of how the existing funding is currently being distributed. This oversight committee can make decisions to penalize local 911 departments, if the committee disagrees with how local funds were applied. This would result in a decrease of already inadequate funding.
3. John Waltner received an e-mail from the KAC outlining SB 575, which creates a repayment program for the next five years that will redistribute motor fuel tax funds from counties that were overpaid in the past to those that were underpaid. The incorrect payments were due to a computer programming error made by the State of Kansas several years ago. Harvey County was overpaid and will therefore be required to pay back \$31,453.85 per year for the next five years. The distributions of motor fuel tax funds to Harvey County in the next five years will be decreased in order to compensate for the overpayment
4. John Waltner gave information on Work Comp premiums paid by the County since 1985. The premiums increased significantly in 2007 due to an employee fatality. However, it appears that the premiums should begin to decrease. The premiums can also be reduced by risk management
5. Rich Hanley, Director of Department on Aging, presented a letter to be sent to the Director of Transportation & Physical Disabilities of the Sedgwick County Transportation Brokerage. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter which states that Rich Hanley was appointed as the Harvey County representative to Coordinated Transit District #12. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. Phil Adams, Road & Bridge Superintendant, reported that the department applied sand and salt to Harvey County roads during the weekend snow and ice storm. They also plowed drifts as a result of blowing snow.

#### **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.

At 9:40 a.m. the Commission recessed for a period of 10 minutes.

Marianne Eichelberger, Director of Newton Public Library, and Bob Grant, Library Board member, presented the annual library report. Ms. Eichelberger cited usage statistics of the library and also reviewed funding and usage of the Enlite Program, which provides special

services for older adults in Harvey County. Ms. Eichelberger also presented architect's renderings of the proposed new Newton Public Library building and parking area. Studies concluded that the best location for the new library is in the same location of the existing library. Commissioner Roberson relayed the concerns of a citizen who feels that some homeless people are misusing the library. Ms. Eichelberger responded that this is not a problem significant to this library, but is a problem for libraries across the nation.

Rex Schecter, who owns property in the area of the new Kansas Logistics Park, attended the meeting to state his disappointment that the County Commission is supporting the City of Newton in the development of the Park. He feels that the acquisition of land has been mishandled by the City and he is seeking representation by an attorney. The City is requesting that the Schecter's sign a document deeding extra road right-of-way to the City. The-right-of-way would be increased from 30 feet from the center of the road to 50 feet.

At 10:43 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into Executive Session for a period of 47 minutes to discuss economic development and legal matters with the County Counselor. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were Counselor Greg Nye and Charlie Summers. Executive session ended at 11:30 a.m. with no action being taken. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to extend the session for another 20 minutes until 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 11:50 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

#### THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Ron Krehbiel, Member

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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

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Marge Roberson, Member