

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 11, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on April 11, 2011 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Westfall saw Judge Walker over the weekend and Judge Walker said that the Carr trial won't be this month.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that the state funds for the Local Environmental Protection Program will be in the state budget this year.
3. Commissioner Westfall stated that REAP CIEE nomination names need to be submitted in the next few weeks.
4. Commissioner Roberson attended the REAP meeting Monday morning and she stated that the Kansas Star Casino gave a presentation on their new casino.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Roberson will be giving a leadership presentation at ITT Tech in Wichita on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Commissioner Westfall will attend the REAP/EDC meeting on Thursday, April 28 in Wichita at noon.

Minutes of the April 4, 2011 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes of the April 8, 2011 canvass of the April 5, 2011 Election meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Sheriff T. Walton reported that everything went smooth last week. He has gotten a lot of calls after the shoe display went up in front of the courthouse about the number of child abuses incidents reported in Harvey County. He asked Melanie Watkins, CASA Director, were she got the figure of 800 abuses. She said that she goes to a link from SRS to get her numbers. T. stated that CASA includes a lot of situations that don't fall under the Sheriff's prevue of abuse. T. stated that actual abuse numbers in Harvey County were about 110 last year. We will have an article put in The Kansan explaining the difference in numbers.
2. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Director, asked about the lane closed ahead sign that is still up in front of the Courthouse when it appears that the work on St Mary's school addition is completed. He will contact the city to see when the sign can be removed. Jim reported that Road & Bridge completed a box culvert on NE 96th last week.

3. Greg Nye, County Counselor, reported Hardwood Cabinets in Burrton has several different buildings and on each one they have a separate exemption. One of the building has closed and the building will be going back on the tax rolls. It was a 10 year full exemption. He called Bob Kaplan, attorney for Camacho, and reported on the deeds that were filed regarding the Kansas Clay & Hunts property. Greg will mail copies of the deeds to Bob Kaplan and the appeal may be a moot issue now.
4. John Waltner stated that we received a call from a property owner east of Newton and south of First Street about some junk automobiles on a piece of property.
5. The RSVP banquet will be Thursday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please respond to John if you will attend.
6. Anthony reported on wind damage at East Lake. A camper in storage was damaged and a 12-foot garage door and window were blown out. He talked to our insurance company. Kass and his crew will do minimum repair until the insurance company can get someone out.
7. John reported that Standard & Poors gave Harvey County an "A" rating for the upcoming bond issue. This reflects on what a good job we are doing financially and with our fiscal management.
8. Anthony passed on information from Roy Patton about Waste Connections' policy on the types of plastic they will accept as recyclable.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$130,579.63 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Lon Buller, Emergency Development Director, gave an open burning update. Over the past couple of weeks we have had several issues that have come up. Lon explained that when the grassland fire index is low, moderate, or high, they go by the wind speeds and make adjustments during the day as the wind speed changes. An issue that has come up is when someone calls in early in the morning and they ask to burn because the wind is down. The weather service grassland fire index shows that the wind will be in the Moderate to High range later in the morning so they are denied getting to burn. Laverne Goering, rural property owner, asked about the 24-hour window that has been set. He would like to see a window of time for burning to be allowed. Lon will talk to the fire chiefs about what was discussed and get back to the commissioners with a recommendation.

At 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 5 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also included in the session were John Waltner, County Administrator; Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant County Administrator; and Greg Nye, County Counselor. The executive session ended at 12:00 p.m. with no action being taken.

The commissioners recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Marianne Eichelberger, Newton Public Library Director, gave an overview of their 2010 annual report. They have a lot of library usage. The library is also used as a third community place where people can come in and meet with other people or just have a place to go where there are other people. They are working on trying to get more teens and preteens to come in to play Wii and board games. They also offer on-line educational tools in English and Spanish. In addition, they offer e-books, videos, music, etc. They have volunteers who teach classes on the Kindle and Nook and help citizens with their income taxes and homestead filings. They are looking at ways to expand their website and virtual branch. They have partnerships with various entities and worked with the ReNewton project. New is a video wall that displays various things that are happening in the library and services that are being offered.

The Commissioners left at 1:45 p.m. to tour the Kansas Logistics Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member