

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

**August 22, 2011**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on August 22, 2011 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Roberson reported that the 19 month-old baby of City Commissioner Racquel Thiesen passed away on Saturday August 20.
2. Commissioner Roberson commended County Clerk, Joyce Truskett, for the meeting notes from last weeks budget hearing.
3. Commissioner Westfall received a report from Steven Brandenberger, 6507 S. River Park Rd, that Kisiwa Creek water is running orange caused by the ASR Project.
4. Counselor Greg Nye reported that he is the proud grandfather of Serene Sidney Seck, born on August 17.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Roberson, Jo Miller and John Waltner will meet with Jessie Kaye, Director of Prairie View, August 23 at 3:30 p.m.
2. A retirement reception for Carola Ratzlaff, Health Department nurse, will be held on August 23 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m., at the Health Department. All are invited.

Minutes of the August 11 and August 15 Commission meetings were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Sheriff T. Walton reported that there are 103 inmates housed in the jail. He also reported that they are still having issues with the air-conditioning in the detention center.
2. Counselor Greg Nye reported that the Alta Township problem that he has been assisting with has now been settled.
3. Counselor Nye reported that the Spencer Road issue in Darlington Township has also been resolved.
4. County Treasurer Becky Fields reported that Harvey County will not be an IRP office. She stated that it is too much work for her office to do right now with the other state system upgrades that are being implemented. She contacted the state to be removed as a satellite office. They may look at trying this again in the future, possibly next spring. She expressed that she is sorry that Harvey County will not participate in this program, but regular Harvey County license tag customers were being held up because new IRP registrations can take about an hour to process. The tag office clerks need to be spending any extra time training for the new state tag system. The tag office will be closed to the public December 1-7, 2011 for

- implementation of the new tag system. Also, the new driver's license system will be installed August 31 and September 1, 2011.
5. John Waltner informed the commission that Gary Alumbaugh has left Graber's Heating and Cooling and is now working for the City of Newton. Mr. Alumbaugh has provided the support and assistance with the mechanical system at the courthouse and detention center for 18 years. He may be available "on-call" in the future.
  6. John Waltner pointed out a newsletter included in the packets from Pete Charette at Cobalt Community Research that includes results of a nationwide property tax satisfaction survey. The results indicate that the satisfaction level has actually increased.
  7. John Waltner reported that the traffic on South Hoover Road has increased dramatically because of the closed bridge on Ridge Road. Hoover Road is not a designated detour. After an accident occurred at 24<sup>th</sup> & Hoover, Road & Bridge installed yield signs on Hoover Road at that intersection. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, stated that he did an informal traffic survey of the site and that the sight triangle is good, but speeding is an issue. Jim also stated that the bridge project should be completed in about 3 weeks, allowing Ridge Road to reopen. Jim answered affirmatively when Commissioner Westfall asked if the intention is to keep the yield signs on Hoover Road.
  8. John Waltner handed out an aerial map of a property south of Halstead that may result in a fence viewing. The map is for property owned by Daniel Romine at 11402 SW 48<sup>th</sup> Street and the property just to the north owned by Jack Hancock, but rented by Vince Hatton. There is a north-south driveway through the Romine property to get to the Hancock property from 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The fence is an east-west fence between the properties that is in disrepair and there are cattle escaping through the fence.
  9. John Waltner informed the commissioners that a couple of weeks ago there was a meeting attended by himself, Sheriff T. Walton, Newton City Administrator Randy Riggs, Newton Police Chief Jim Daily, Sandy Limon and others to discuss the possible addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the Law Enforcement Center to meet the needs of the Newton Police Department. John handed out drawings that were prepared by Sandy Limon. John also stated that the current building was originally designed with the possible addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in mind. The plans show the Newton Police Department occupying the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, freeing up space on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor for the Sheriff Department. A bump-out on the front would provide increased security for public access. John stated that this was a very preliminary discussion and that this would be the least expensive option to gain space for both departments involved.
  10. John Waltner submitted the original certificate of the final budget for signatures by all commissioners on each of six copies. The final budget includes the reductions necessary to achieve the 2.5 mill levy increase that was voted on at the budget hearing. Actual mill levy will be determined in November by the County Clerk from valuations certified at that time. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve the adoption and signing of the final budget as approved by the commission at the August 15<sup>th</sup> budget hearing. Commissioner Westfall seconded

- the motion and it was passed unanimously.
11. Commissioner Krehbiel suggested a proclamation be drafted to commemorate September 11. John Waltner stated he would prepare a draft by the next meeting.
  12. Harvey County West Lake tested positive for Blue-green Algae in an independent test. The KDHE will be notified. Notification signs have been posted at the Lake instructing people to stay out of the water. The status of Camp Hawk is still unknown. Fish can still be added to the lakes.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Martin Wetschensky, 907 W. Poplar, Newton, thanked the commission for allowing the citizens to speak at the budget hearing last week. He stated that after being invited to regular meetings, he plans to attend to become better informed on government operations. Commissioner Roberson gave her phone number to Martin to call for further explanation on particular issues.

Glen Spielman, 923 E 1<sup>st</sup>, Newton, asked who is over the County Attorney. Commissioner Westfall explained that it is an elected position and cannot be hired or fired by the commission. Glen questioned some of the decisions being made by the County Attorney office. Commissioners Roberson, Westfall and Krehbiel clarified that some sentencing guidelines come from the state and that plea agreements are sometimes made. Commissioner Westfall suggested contacting the Kansas Attorney General with questions regarding the decisions made by the County Attorney's office.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$73,647.71 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Westfall suggested that the names of juvenile offenders be removed from the warrant check reports which are public record.

The annual report of the Harvey/McPherson County Community Corrections was presented by Janet Cagle. She presented the KDOC FY2011 year end outcome report. KDOC wants all offices to reduce the revocation rate (offenders sent to prison) by 20% from FY2006. In FY2006 this office only had 33 offenders sent to prison, which is a very low number compared to the state so they can't meet the 20% less goal. The new goals for FY2013 call for a 75% success rate (anybody that does not go to prison). Currently this office is at a 70.6% success rate and 29% revocation rate. The total carryover amount of offender reimbursements for FY2012 is \$98,264.25 available for use. Offender reimbursements average approximately \$35,000 per year. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to accept the KDOC community comprehensive plan quarterly report and the personnel carryover reimbursement budget report and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Supervisor, was present for the bid opening for a 1 Ton Flat Bed Truck. No bids were submitted. The specifications will be readdressed and rebid. Rusty Walters, Burrton Consolidated Fire District #5, made an information only presentation of the plans for their proposed new main station for fire and EMS. The plans showed a 100' x 160' building with 20' sidewalls. The building will have multiple bays for equipment, a FEMA

category 5 storm safe room, multiple offices and operational areas, kitchen, meeting room and 6 apartments on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of office area. The apartments will be used to attract volunteers from fire training classes at HCC as inexpensive temporary housing. He informed the commissioners that the new station will be funded with GO bonds and paid for with an approximate 1.5 mill levy increase in the future. The fire district passed their 2012 budget with an unopposed 2.5 mill increase. The current opinion of the fire board is to not build substations. He stated that their district covers 150 square miles.

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period not to exceed 15 minutes to discuss proprietary issues. Commissioner Roberson seconded and it passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Counselor Greg Nye and Rick Piepho, Deputy Clerk. Executive session ended at 11:25 a.m. with no action taken.

At 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to extend the executive session for a period not to exceed 15 minutes to continue the previous discussion. Commissioner Roberson seconded and it passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Counselor Greg Nye and Rick Piepho, Deputy Clerk. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m. with no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

#### THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Marge Roberson, Member

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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member