

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 5, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 5, 2011 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Roberson attended an open house at the new facility for the Halstead Fire Department. She reported that it is a very nice facility.
2. Commissioner Roberson shared a letter she received from Dennis and Doris Flickner regarding the possible resurfacing of NE 24th east from North Newton to Highway 50. Dr. Perry White of Bethel College has requested a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss future long-term plans for Bethel College, which might include a new entrance off of 24th Street. The request from Dr. White to meet with the Commissioners was intended as a discussion item only, with no decisions scheduled to be made. Commissioner Westfall has also had communication from a citizen regarding this issue.
3. The repairs and upgrade to South Spencer Road have been completed and the County has received all invoices from Darlington Township. An agreed upon private payment to Darlington Township will also be paid in the next 60 days.
4. The City of Sedgwick Downtown Historical District has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This could enable the use of tax credits and grants for the rehabilitation of contributing buildings within the district.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The KLP Development Authority meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. for today has been cancelled. Suzanne Loomis and Bob Myers from the City of Newton are instead traveling to Pittsburg, Kansas to meet with representatives from Watco Railroad.
2. The KLP Development Authority meeting scheduled for December 9th at City Hall will go on as scheduled.
3. The Eagle Drainage District Board meeting will be held in Bentley at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7.
4. A REAP meeting and legislative reception will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th in Wichita.
5. The Commissioners received an invitation to attend an open house on December 7 for Life Team at the Airport.

Minutes of the November 21, 2011 Commission meeting 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 currently 88 inmates at the Detention Center.

2. Byron Warta reported that Park Aircraft located at the Newton City/County Airport will begin running a second shift after January 1, 2012. Ballard's, also located at the Airport, has been consistently working 4 to 6 people. He also reported that Senator McGinn is proposing that the extra 1% sales tax for the State be terminated at the end of 2012 as was initially promised.
3. Commissioner Westfall added that Wichita Air Service, also located at the airport, has signed a two year contract to rebuild an A-10 Warthog. They are also working on several other contracts.
4. Anthony Swartzendruber presented the sales and use tax collection reports for the month of November. Sales tax collections were up 14.13% from a year ago and use tax was up 5.99%. The total year-to-date collections are up 3.49% from last year.
5. Commissioner Krehbiel inquired as to the status of work that was to take place as a result of the fence viewing that took place in October. Although the work has not begun yet, it is expected to take place soon.
6. John Waltner informed the Commission that there was a complaint received from a citizen about the Nativity Scene located on the front lawn of the courthouse. Greg Nye, County Counselor, has reviewed this issue in depth, and because there is a disclaimer on the Nativity, it is displayed correctly.
7. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve the recommendation for appointment of Cheryl Jefferson Bell to the Harvey County Mental Health Advisory Board, authorize the Chairman to sign, and waive the one week waiting period. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
8. Anthony Swartzendruber presented an amendment for the 2011 budget to amend the 9-1-1 Landline Fund in the amount of \$157,261, and the Special Parks and Recreation Fund in the amount of \$8,669. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to issue the Notice of Budget Hearing to amend the 2011 budget. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
9. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-30**, designating public holidays for 2012. The list of holidays includes the addition of Christmas Eve. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
10. Anthony Swartzendruber presented a list of outstanding warrant checks for cancellation. The list includes some employee checks, but the employees have been contacted and report that the checks were actually cashed, but for various reasons were not cleared from the account. Last year checks up to the beginning of our current financial system in April of 2007 were cancelled. The checks presented today were written from April 1, 2007 to December 5, 2009. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-31**, cancelling certain county warrant checks written from April 1, 2007 to December 5, 2009 totaling \$9,920.42. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$72,745.86 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held about the possible addition of an employee family picnic some time during the year.

Jo Miller, Director of the Health Department, informed the Commission that there is an effort by state leadership to dismantle the Kansas Department of Health and Environment which is the State Health Agency and current authority of all local public health programs. KDHE will become a case management and financial management agency of the new KanCare system. Several programs currently administered by the Health Department would be shifted to SRS which is to also undergo changes and become the Bureau of Children and Families. The change will take place by July of 2012. Ms. Miller is concerned about the lack of information available to local Health Departments as decisions are being made, and that local public health care will be a victim rather than a benefactor of the change. It is very important that our local legislators be aware of what is happening and what the impact on public health could be. There will be a meeting at Prairie View on December 13 to discuss the possible changes.

Counselor Greg Nye presented information with regard to the proposed annexation of Harvey County land into the Eagle Drainage District, which is based in Sedgwick County. The information included a map, list of property owners, and a copy of the petition to annex. Two notices will be published, one for a board meeting of the Eagle Drainage District to be held at 7:00 p.m. in Bentley on Wednesday, December 7, and the notice for a meeting to be held at the West Park Community Building on December 19 at 6:00 p.m., which will also be attended by the Eagle Drainage District and their attorney. The second notice is for the December 21 Sedgwick County Commission meeting when a final decision on the annexation will be made. Commissioner Krehbiel expressed hope that Commissioners from Sedgwick County, who will solely make the final decision on the annexation, attend the meeting to hear the concerns of Harvey County residents. Letters will be sent to approximately 100 Harvey County property owners who will be affected. If the annexation is approved, residents would pay a specified amount per acre for the Drainage District.

At 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:25 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was recessed at 11:25 a.m. to attend the annual Christmas luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. following the luncheon.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member