

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 19, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 19, 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 gave a report on the Local Emergency Planning meeting that she attended last week. The purpose of the LEPC is to consolidate funding-required training exercises for emergency response groups in an effort to eliminate duplication.
2. Commissioner Roberson reported that there have been some changes in KCAMP Insurance. One change gives the individual KCAMP board members the ability to vote on their home county insurance. The structure of the Board was changed so that members get a per diem and mileage. The other change is that the ceiling for insurance that isn't covered by a tort claim will be raised from one million to two million, and for the next year there will be no charge.
3. All the Commissioners received a call from Scott Standard from the Eagle Drainage District.
4. Commissioner Westfall reported that the KLP Development Authority meeting that was scheduled for December 16 was cancelled.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. A meeting regarding the proposed annexation of Harvey County land into the Sedgwick County Eagle Drainage District will be held at the West Park Community Building at 6:00 p.m. tonight.
2. There will be no Commission meeting on December 27, 2011.
3. The canvass of the Fire District #5 election on December 22 will be held on December 23 at 9:00 a.m.
4. Commissioner Roberson will attend a KCAMP meeting on January 27 in Topeka.

Because there will be no Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 27, Commissioner Westfall made a motion to authorize staff to pay time-sensitive bills. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Minutes of the December 12, 2011 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Sheriff T Walton reported that the jail population is 118. The annual Sheriff's Department Christmas dinner was held at the West Park Community Building this year. He also reported that the committee meetings on the detention review board are going very well. Anthony Swartzendruber will give a presentation on budgets this coming Wednesday.

2. Byron Warta provided maps to the Commissioners detailing the drought situation and the wells in the state of Kansas. There have been several requests for water permits in Harvey County from people who have existing permits, but are requesting to increase their water allotments. He also reported on the 20 year plan for the Newton City/County Airport. There are 200 direct employees at the airport and an additional 200 indirect employees.
3. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, reported that there will be a National Public Golf Course Championship tournament held at the Sand Creek Station Golf Course in 2014. This is a large event that will require an emergency contingency plan to be in place by July of 2012.
4. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that REAP was awarded the HUD Sustainability Grant that they had applied for. They are currently in the process of negotiating the budget with HUD, which is required to be completed by December 22. They will then have 120 days to develop an official plan of action. The plan will be presented at the January 9 REAP meeting. People from the community who might be interested and business leaders are encouraged to attend that meeting.
5. Anthony reported that KCAMP has sent information regarding employee cell phone usage and texting while operating county vehicles. The Harvey County employee manual states that this is forbidden with the exception of law enforcement personnel.
6. The Commissioners received a draft copy of a request for proposal for a compensation study of Harvey County employees. This study would need to be completed before the 2013 budget season next summer and the estimated cost of the study is \$25,000 to \$35,000. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to authorize staff to issue a request for proposals for a classification and compensation study for Harvey County. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
7. Craig Clough, Appraiser, provided a copy of a letter from the Kansas Department of Revenue stating that Harvey County has met the criteria to be considered in substantial compliance in appraisal performance for 2011.
8. John Waltner reported that Dan Romine said that the culvert has been installed in preparation for the installation of the drive as directed after the recent fence viewing. There are some trees that have to be removed also. Mr. Romine has reported that the tenant is exercising more caution using the current drive, which is shared.
9. John reported that the KLP development agreements for New Millenium and Watco will likely be finalized this week. The KLPDA will then call a meeting to approve the agreements.
10. An informational meeting was held at Prairie View last Tuesday for all parties involved with community health services, including Prairie View, Health Ministries, and the Harvey County Health Department. The implications of what the administration has recommended as to the shift in delivery of services was explained and discussed. Those presenting at the meeting were Mike Hammond, Director of Community Mental Health Association; Jason Wesco, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, and Michelle Ponce, from the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments.

11. Gina Bell was offered and has accepted the position of Planning and Zoning Director for Harvey County. She will start on January 9, 2012.
12. Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, presented the proposed 2012 rates for the Harvey County Transfer Station and Construction and Demolition Landfill. Don Rogers, Representative from Waste Connections, also attended the meeting. The current tipping fees, \$28 per ton, have not changed since 2001. Since Reno County is raising their rates for the transfer of solid waste, it is necessary to raise those fees. A study was also done with regard to construction and demolition, and it was determined that the rates for that should be raised by \$2.00 per ton. The charge for brush disposal will remain the same. Don Rogers reported that the contract with Waste Connections, who administers the recycling center, will remain the same. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-32**, changing the rates at the Harvey County Transfer Station and Construction and Demolition Landfill beginning January 1, 2012.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$96,017.51 for the week of 12/15/11 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Perry White, President of Bethel College, addressed the Commission regarding the status and growth of the College, including plans to increase enrollment from the current 564 students to 1,000 students, and form stronger relationships with Harvey County, the EDC, and the City of Newton. A new look for the college is planned. Since the first student contact area for the college is the Leisy House on East 24th Street, they would like to design a more appealing entrance. Another proposed change is the paving of East 24th Street from the campus east to Highway 50. Vernon Frey and Byron Ediger, residents of East 24th Street, attended the meeting and expressed support for the paving of the road, which they stated is a heavily travelled road. Ray Penner, Chairman of the Bethel Board also attended the presentation and is in support of paving the road as is the North Newton City Council.

At 11:00 a.m. a public hearing was opened regarding the amendment of the 2011 budget for the 911 Landline fund and the Special Parks and Recreation Alcohol fund. Notice of the hearing was published on December 8. No citizens were present. The hearing was closed at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

No citizens were present for citizen's forum.

Counselor Greg Nye gave a brief update on the Santoya claim.

The Commission left for the quad county meeting at 11:20 a.m.

At 1:45 p.m. Jonie James, Susan Jackson, and Scott Eckert gave an update on the Extension Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member