

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 28, 2011 with all three commissioners present. Commissioner Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Roberson attended the KCAMP meeting last week. She presented additional information on the value of the spreader that recently burned at the Transfer Station. After review of the information, KCAMP will get back with us later this week.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that Senator Carolyn McGinn's father-in-law passed away and the funeral will be held this Wednesday.
3. Commissioner Westfall met last week with Dr. Perry White, President of Bethel College. Bethel is planning to rebuild the college's main entrance off of 24th Street in North Newton. There are two houses that will need to be moved and Dr. White asked if the County would be interested in one of the houses to possibly move to East Lake as a Ranger residence. Dr. White also inquired what would be required for the County to blacktop NE 24th Street east to Highway 50.
4. Commissioner Westfall brought attention to the article in the recent KCAMP letter regarding emergency vehicle designations. Harvey County has issued only two permits for personal vehicles that can be designated as emergency vehicles. The Commission agreed that the permits should be reviewed annually and proof of vehicle insurance coverage should be provided.
5. Commissioners Roberson and Westfall attended a legislative meeting Saturday. Several groups expressed opposition to the Governor's proposed budget cuts. Many of these same groups have approached the County for additional funds to replace funding that was cut by the State.
6. Sales tax revenues for February, 2011 were \$439,116.45 which represents a 12.6% increase over February, 2010 revenues.
7. Commissioner Krehbiel stated that a decision needs to be made about the parks residences that are in need of upgrade and repair. He also asked what the actual comparable dollar amount is per month for the provided housing that the rangers receive.
8. Chairman Krehbiel informed the Commission that the cabinet division of Steve Lang Hardwoods in Burrton closed last week and 35 employees were laid off. Sun-Dor-Co in Newton also closed last week.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

No additions or changes were made to the calendar.

Minutes of the February 22, 2011 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner informed the commissioners that normally the Appraiser's office sends valuation notices to taxpayers by March 1. However, due to the changeover from CAMA to the ORION system, the Appraiser's Office has been granted a 30 day extension to send out the notices. The notices will be sent out by April 1 instead.
2. Jayhawk Pipeline has requested that the Commission sign a release for compensation for damages done at West Park when a new pipeline was laid. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to accept and approve a release accepting the sum of \$6,670 to compensate for damages at West Park. The money will be used to replace roofs on the bathhouses and gazebo, and new guttering on the community building and bathhouses. A privacy fence will also be constructed across the pipeline right-of-way on the north side of 24th Street. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
3. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, and possibly Greg Nye will travel to Colwich to meet with ICM representatives at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.
4. John received a call from Doug King who still wants to build a trash-to-energy plant in Harvey County. He is proposing a plant sized to burn 85 tons per day at no cost to the county. The proposal should arrive some time this week.
5. The Commission received a copy of a letter from Janet Cagle, Community Corrections Administrator of the 9th Judicial District, from the Juvenile Justice Authority of the State of Kansas. The Governor's FY 2012 budget includes significant reductions to community funding. This will impact funding for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Communities in Schools, and CASA. Teen Court will also have to be eliminated. Ms. Cagle is asking for funding from Harvey County to continue this service.
6. John and other representatives from REAP met with Governor Brownback last Thursday. Governor Brownback said that he thought REAP should put some effort into Agri-tourism. He also would like to have a Governor's Conference with Harvey and Reno Counties regarding wind energy.
7. John reported that he and Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, met with Jim Spencer and Don Rogers of Waste Connections. They are trying to find a solution for the loss of revenue at the Transfer Station after Waste Connections purchased Stutzman Refuse and began hauling the trash from Park City and Bel Aire to the Sedgwick County Landfill instead of Harvey County. The actual loss of revenue from the trash is about \$2,000 per month. Commissioner Roberson suggested that Reno County be consulted since the trash was ultimately transferred to their landfill.
8. Phil Adams, Road & Bridge Superintendant, said crews are working to repair bridges right now.
9. Sheriff T. Walton said that he received information last week that the Federal government will no longer fund the cleanup of meth labs. It costs between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to clean them up. There are federal regulations that govern how the

- labs are to be cleaned up, but there will no longer be funding to do so. Sheriff Walton also said that he would like to proceed in the building of a wall in the east entry lobby area to provide more security when prisoners are transferred from the Detention Center to District Court. He would like to proceed as soon as possible. The jail population is 102. Sheriff Walton received a letter from the Department of Corrections asking if Harvey County would be willing to house State prisoners. Sheriff Walton asked for more information.
10. Byron Warta said that a couple of water resource bills came out of committee last week. One of them is a concern to this area.
 11. Becky Fields, Treasurer, reported that there are two new employees in the Driver's License Office. The Supervisor is Debra Gonzalez-Hawk and the new part-time employee is Joanna Arce. Both employees are required to attend mandatory fraud training in Topeka on April 13 and 14. The Driver's License Office will therefore be closed those two days. Becky also asked the Commission for permission to hang two flags donated by a former soldier. The flags were flown in Afghanistan and Iraq. Becky also reported that the Motor Vehicle Office will be closed from July 1 to July 7 while the new State motor vehicle system is implemented. She also reported that she is concerned about security in the Driver's License Office. A gentleman came into the office last week and one of the employees noticed that he was wearing a gun. The employees are also receiving verbal abuse.
 12. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that the County received notice from the State of Kansas that tax exemptions have been approved for the two properties in the parking lot across the street south of the Courthouse.
 13. John Waltner reported that the revision of the personnel manual is continuing and staff level discussions should conclude by this Friday.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$32,263.32 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Cowan, Bond Counsel, presented a resolution to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds with regard to the development of the Kansas Logistics Park. The resolution would authorize the County to make a contribution to the City of Newton in an amount not to exceed \$2,930,000 in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement. Including financing costs, the amount would not exceed \$2,990,000. Counselor Cowan stated that State law requires that a public bond sale be held for the bonds if the amount exceeds \$2,000,000. He also recommended that Harvey County employ a municipal financial advisor and receive a bond rating.

Commissioner Westfall made a motion to accept **Resolution No. 2011-7**, a home rule resolution of Harvey County, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds of the county to provide funds for an economic development contribution to be used in connection with the acquisition of property for economic development purposes by the City of Newton, Kansas.

At 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 30 minutes to discuss economic development and personnel issues. Commissioner Westfall

seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also included in the session were John Waltner, County Administrator; Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant County Administrator; and Joyce Truskett, County Clerk, and Greg Nye, County Counselor. At 11:10 a.m. Linda Kientz, Personnel Manager, joined the session. At 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to extend executive session for a period of 10 minutes. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. At 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to extend the session for a period of fifteen minutes until 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 11:45 a.m. with no action being taken.

At 12:00 p.m., the meeting was recessed until the joint City/County meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the City of Newton.

At 5:00 p.m., the joint City of Newton/Harvey County Commission meeting was convened. City Commissioner Jim Nickel and County Commissioner Chip Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 40 minutes. City Commissioner Ken Hall and County Commissioner Marge Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Those in attendance for the session were:

Harvey County
Chairman Krehbiel
Commissioner Roberson
Commissioner Westfall
John Waltner
Anthony Swartzendruber
Counselor Greg Nye
Joyce Truskett

Newton City
Mayor Willis Heck
Commissioner Hall
Commissioner Thiessen
Commissioner Pouch
Commissioner Nickel
Randy Riggs
Counselor Bob Myers
Tim Johnson

Executive session ended at 5:40 p.m. with no action being taken.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member