

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

**January 3, 2011**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on January 3, 2011 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. There is a new State funding plan available for counties to obtain money for bridge construction. It involves both State and Federal funding. Phil Adams stated that at the current time he believes we would be better off staying with the current program for funding.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that a small fire occurred at the County residence located at East Lake.
3. Commissioner Westfall received a complaint from a citizen regarding the fees charged for a conditional use permit to build a private wind generator. The cost for a conditional use permit in Harvey County is approximately \$300.
4. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that construction on the new casino in Sumner County is scheduled to begin. The casino complex will include an arena similar to what is planned for the new Harvey County Fairgrounds.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Each of the Commissioners will meet separately with two of the Newton City Commissioners on January 4, 11, and 12..
2. Commissioner Roberson will attend a KCAMP meeting on January 26 and 27.
3. The Harvey County 911 Board will meet on January 6 at 9:00 a.m.
4. There will be a tax report meeting held on January 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Prairie Harvest meeting room. Newton City Mayor, Willis Heck, will lead a discussion on the tax plan that State Senator Dick Kelsey is proposing to the State legislature.
5. The Local Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 12. The new emergency response plan required by FEMA, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, will be discussed. An elected commissioner should serve on this committee and Commissioner Westfall suggested that it be the Chairman of the Commission.

Minutes of the December 20, 2010 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Sheriff T. Walton explained how the Diploma Program at the Detention Center is funded. The budget contains \$6,000 for the employment of a teacher. There were a couple of years where a teacher was not hired and the funds were used for

- computer equipment, etc. for the inmates. At the current time, a teacher has been hired for the program.
2. John Waltner reported that Lisa Bartel, former manager of the Hesston Wellness Center, has been hired at the Health Department to maintain the tobacco awareness and wellness program. She will begin employment on January 19th.
  3. As reported in the minutes of the October 23 Commission meeting, Stutzman Refuse was recently acquired by Waste Connections. At that meeting Hank Yoder and Don Rogers, Stutzman representatives, informed the Commission that there would be very few changes, and that all contracts between Stutzman and Harvey County would continue to be honored by Waste Connections. However, Roy Patton, Director of the Harvey County Transfer Station, reports that Waste Connections has decided not to honor the agreement with Harvey County for out-of-county solid waste. Stutzman had an agreement with Harvey County for the waste collected in Park City. The tipping fees set for 2011 took into consideration the revenues generated from the Park City waste disposal. Waste Connections is now hauling the waste to the Sedgwick County Landfill which will decrease revenues at the Harvey County Transfer Station by \$100,000 to \$105,000. John and Roy will try to have a meeting with Waste Connections.
  4. The Commissioners signed the annual public official's bond as required by KCAMP.
  5. The Commissioners received information from KWORCC seeking nominations to fill the unexpired term of Reno County Commissioner Francis Garcia on the KWORCC Board of Trustees.
  6. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-1**, designating the Newton Kansan as the official county newspaper. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  7. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-2**, designating the First Bank of Newton as the official depository of public funds of Harvey County. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  8. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2011-3**, setting the 2011 salaries for Harvey County department heads. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  9. The final plat for the Hesston Cemetery was presented to the Commissioners for signing.
  10. Phil Adams, Superintendent of the Road & Bridge Department, reported that there were no major problems on the roads in the county over the holidays. He also reported on an issue in Rice County between the JCam Company and a township there. The County Commissioners there became involved after a drainage issue arose. As a result of the issue, there is a legislator that is planning to introduce legislation about disagreements between townships and Counties, stating that an intermediary needs to be appointed to help resolve the problems.
  11. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the holidays also went well in the Sheriff's Department. They did not have to hire staffing for extra shifts. Sheriff Walton also stated that Anthony Swartzendruber is doing a good job, helping the

- department to correct some reporting issues. He also reported that there was a two fatality accident on Highway 50 east of Walton on Sunday morning.
12. Counselor Greg Nye reported that the tax foreclosure sale was held last Wednesday and eight tracts were sold. There were originally twenty two tracts listed for sale, but fourteen were redeemed by payment of taxes before the sale.
  13. Commissioner Krehbiel commended Sheriff Walton for doing a good job in the past year and expressed his appreciation for the Sheriff's attendance at the Commission meetings.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$129,762.73 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Kass Miller and Ryan Flaming, Park Rangers, presented information on the residences at East Lake and Camp Hawk. Remodeling and updating of the residences is being considered and an inspection by an outside contractor has been performed on each of the homes. Commissioner Roberson verified that the Commission has asked that the rangers have their residences on site at the Parks. The rangers do not pay rent on the residences and it is considered part of their pay scale. Because of all the issues enumerated in the inspections, the consensus of the Commissioners was that a long-term plan be developed. A list of what needs to be done immediately and what needs to be done long-term will be put together. Both residences have electrical issues, but the East Park residence needs more done to it. It was decided that a home inspection also be done on the residence at West Park.

Lonnie Buller, Emergency Management Director, and Scott Davies, Planning and Zoning Director, showed the Commissioners a burn permit application on the Saline County website. They also explained how the process works and how it could apply in Harvey County. Discussion was held on the possibility of simply passing a resolution and then using this type of permit process. Burning violations would be investigated by the Sheriff's Office.

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session from for a period of 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters. Also included in the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m. with no action being taken.

Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to extend the contract for John Waltner to be County Administrator for 13 months with a 2% increase in salary

Commissioner Roberson made a motion to renew the employment agreement between Harvey county and Greg Nye as County Counselor for another year for the agreed upon amount. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Ron Krehbiel, Member

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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

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Marge Roberson, Member