

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 25, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on July 25, 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 tour and dinner last week at the new Meridian Center went very well.
2. The Commission discussed new rental fees proposed by the Parks Board for rental of the Community Building at West Park.
3. Commissioner Krehbiel received a citizen's complaint about trash piles and trash in the ditches at a location in the west part of the County. Scott Davies, Director of Planning and Zoning, will send a letter to the property owner to ask that the trash be cleaned up.
4. Commissioner Krehbiel talked to the Water Resource Board about the overpumping of water out of the Blaze Fork Creek in the western part of the County. Property owners that are permitted to pump water out of the Creek must pump the amount of water allowed on the permit or risk losing the permit.

Minutes of the July 18 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The Farm Bureau breakfast meeting will be held August 15 at 7:00 a.m.
2. The REAP executive board will hold several listening meetings within the region, including one at McKinley School in Newton on August 11 at 8:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Sheriff T. Walton reported that there have been increased numbers of fights and some incidents of road rage. He speculates that the extreme heat has probably increased these incidents. The jail population is 110. He also reported that there are continuing problems with the air conditioning at the Detention Center.
2. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, reported that the extreme heat has been hard on some roads around the County. The Road & Bridge employees have done OK with the heat so far. The crews are encouraged to drink ample amounts of water.
3. Counselor Nye reported that he met with Ken Stucky and John Gaeddert, Alta Township officers, Dorel Neufeld and his attorney, Jay Sizemore, regarding a berm that was constructed in the Township. Mr. Neufeld is concerned that the berm is causing drainage issues. The issue can hopefully be settled without going to trial.

4. The Commissioners received a report from the City of Wichita informing them that there was a chemical spill into the Little Arkansas River. It is not believed that there will be any adverse effects in Harvey County from the spill.
5. The Commissioners received a copy of a letter from Sandy Limon, a representative of the ReNewton Bicycle Masterplan Committee. He is requesting that four signs be placed in the County identifying the route of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail which passes through Newton and Hesston on its way to/from Buhler to the west and Cassoday to the east. The signs are estimated to cost approximately \$20 per sign. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to expend funds to place the four signs on the trail. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed by a 2 to 1 vote with Commissioner Krehbiel voting nay.
6. It was reported that there is a major water leak at Camp Hawk.
7. The Commissioners received a letter from Judge Richard Walker informing them that the County would be receiving a bill for \$932.13 for the outside examination and evaluation of a sexually violent offender. This case could not be handled by the indigent defense council, so an attorney from McPherson County was appointed. The case has been dismissed and the charge to the County could possibly be reimbursed from the State. The Commission had been forewarned that this could be a very expensive case.
8. The Commission received a copy of the proposed memorandum of understanding between Health Ministries and the Harvey County Health Department. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to authorize the memorandum of understanding with a change in wording to indicate that the board member position that was proposed be appointed by the Commission, and would not necessarily be a Commissioner. Since Commissioner Roberson's name was listed on the MOU, the motion includes authorization for her to sign the document. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
9. A recommendation for appointment to the Harvey County Council on Aging was presented for two positions on the Council. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to waive the second reading and appoint Neva Frey and Dorothy Kennedy to the Harvey County Council on Aging. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
10. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to reappoint Tim Johnson and Richard Denno to the Public Building Commission for a three year term to end in June, 2014.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Byron Warta reported that the issue of over pumping water to fulfill permit quotas to avoid the loss of the permit is being discussed by the Department of Water Resources. It is expected that this requirement will be abolished. However, there are representatives from the eastern part of the state that do not fully understand the issue.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$74,586.17 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:15 a.m. a public hearing was held for the purpose of evaluating the performance of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant No. 09-NSP-008. This grant was used for the purchase of properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed and then developed into residential housing units in an effort to stabilize neighborhoods. Chuck Beth with SCKEDD attended the meeting and gave a description of the grant and how it worked in Harvey County. Two homes were constructed by Habitat for Humanity and are now each owned by single mothers. The hearing was closed at 10:25 a.m.

Larry Sharp, KCAMP representative, presented the annual update of property and liability claims for Harvey County. Insurance premiums for the County are determined by the addition or deletion of property and by the loss ratios. Loss ratio for 2010 was 120%, and the loss ratio for the last 4 years was 134%.

Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, presented the bylaws for the Harvey County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to adopt the bylaws of the LEPC and approve **Resolution No. 2011-21**, authorizing the Director of Emergency Management to make minor changes or corrections in the Harvey County Emergency Operation Plan. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Roberson made a motion to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for the Vulnerable Needs Registry between Harvey County and the State of Kansas. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Westfall made a motion to sign the Promulgation agreement for the development of a County Emergency Operations Plan with the intention of saving lives and protecting property in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the meeting were John Waltner, Counselor Greg Nye, Anthony Swartzendruber, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:35 a.m. with no action being taken.

Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator, presented the Commission with several budget scenarios and their cost and possible effect on the mill levy. The public hearing for the budget will be held on August 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member