

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 6, 2011

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on June 6, 2011 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Roberson reported that the new Newton water tower located on East 12th Street was named the "Tank of the year" by the Kansas Government Journal.
2. Randy Riggs, Newton City Administrator, shared with John Waltner that the contract bids for the roads at the Kansas Logistics Park have come in and they were below what was estimated. It will therefore be possible to upgrade some of the surfacing options.
3. The City of Newton will be sending a letter to all residents to inform them of the new rules for single stream recycling. The letter will be signed by both the City Administrator and the County Administrator. The City has asked the County to review the proposed letter and make changes if necessary.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The Quad County meeting will be held on June 20.
2. Commissioner Westfall will attend a Local Emergency Preparedness meeting on June 8.
3. Commissioner Krehbiel and spouse will attend the Health Ministries banquet to be held on Saturday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May 31, 2011 Commission meeting were corrected and approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendant, reported that Lakin Township recently reconstructed and reopened a section of Old Settlers Road between SW 125th and SW 96th. Therefore, both the intersection at Old Settlers Road and SW 96th and the intersection at Old Settlers Road and SW 125th are now in need of new signage. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Road and Bridge Department and place stop signs for south bound and north bound traffic at the intersection of 96th Street and for the south bound traffic at the intersection of SW 125th Street. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. A resolution will be prepared and signed.

2. Sheriff T. Walton reported that one of the deputies was kicked during an arrest and will be off duty for several months with a leg injury.
3. Anthony Swartzendruber presented a budget preparation time line so the County can meet all the deadlines required.
4. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to sign the letter of agreement to designate recyclable materials and to establish changes in the collection methods used in the City of Newton curbside recycling program. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. John received a phone call from a concerned citizen who lives on the east side of the county. He is concerned about the danger created when bicyclists choose to ride in the center or left side of the traffic lanes on East First Street. Because of the hilly nature of the road it can be very dangerous for bicyclists who are riding in the middle of the road. John contacted Undersheriff Todd Hanchett and requested that if patrol officers see bikers on 1st Street to talk to them and suggest they stay to the right of the roadway.
6. John Waltner reported that Jo Miller, Director of the Health Department, has received complaints from an individual who lives in a mobile home park on the south side of Newton. Home dialysis trash is being placed in a dumpster there and then is strewn about the area by children playing in and around the dumpster. Randy Jackson, Newton City Director of Sanitation, has also been notified to assist in solving this issue.
7. A medical emergency occurred at West Park over the weekend. It was reported to personnel at the Bait shop that there was an unresponsive individual in a vehicle. An ambulance was called and the individual was transported to the hospital.
8. A trailer that has been parked at East Lake for a length of time was blown over in a storm a few weeks ago. The owner of the trailer owes back rent that remains unpaid so the trailer will be auctioned off.
9. In response to the Commissioners concern about involving the county in a Township versus landowner dispute, John Waltner reported that the county involvement would be limited to hauling and spreading material, burning trees, etc., which is no more that would be provided to any other township upon request. The township will be billed for this as is normally the case. Since there are some private funds being contributed to upgrade the road, an agreement between the private individual, the county, and the township is being prepared.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Judy Steinkirchner, Hesston resident, requested that the Commission consider funding for construction of a walking/bicycle path along Old Highway 81 from Hesston to Newton. There are no shoulders on this stretch of road and several accidents and one fatality have occurred there. There is a railroad that runs parallel to the highway that would have to be contacted.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$57,695.58 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner

Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Administration Office. Since there have been several changes in personnel and positions in the office, there are several changes in salary funding. The total budget request is \$341,085 in comparison with the 2011 budget request of \$298,140. The budget includes a capital improvement request of \$1,500 for the purchase of one computer and monitor.

Anthony presented the proposed 2012 budget for the County Commission. The total budget request is \$94,631 compared to the 2011 budget of \$104,430. The difference is due primarily to a decrease in fringe benefits.

Jonie James, Susan Jackson, Chris McGinn, Scott Davies, Gail Lanier, Carol Budde presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Extension Council. The total budget request is \$293,559 which is the same amount requested for the 2011 budget. They reported that they are expecting an increase of approximately 15% in health insurance premiums. The budget includes a small increase in salaries, but the largest increase is for employee benefits. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the 2012 budget request. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Director of Harvey County Economic Development Council, and board members Roger Ahrens and Ray Penner presented the proposed 2012 budget for the EDC. The total budget request is \$112,075 in comparison with a request of \$93,396 in 2011. The EDC budget contains a request for an additional full-time staff person, which also increases benefits, payroll taxes, additional office equipment and space, and training. There is also an amount allotted for a new web page.

Kevin Stubbs, Director of Caring Hands Humane Society, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Humane Society. The total budget request is \$8,605 in comparison to \$8,355 for 2011. The Humane Society has not asked for an increase from the county since 2007, but this budget represents a 3% increase.

Mr. Stubbs also added comments regarding changes in aggressive animal ordinances at Harvey County Parks. He suggested that park visitors be required to show written documentation of vaccinations on all animals at the parks. Rangers would not be able to prove that vaccination tags worn by dogs actually belong to that animal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marge Roberson, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member