

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

**March 14, 2011**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 14, 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 Westfall inquired as to the status of a court case involving 4 horses that are being cared for by the Somerfield's. The bill for the care of the horses for December 1 through March 9 was \$1,261.92. There is a hearing scheduled for this case on March 18.
2. Commissioner Westfall reminded the Commission that Senate Bill 89 is a very important bill regarding the funding of health departments. Funding for LEPP is also being debated.
3. The E911 bill before the legislature has encountered some problems. There are some telecommunications providers that are requesting some of the funding.
4. Commissioner Roberson reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with KCAMP regarding the value of the scraper that burned at the Transfer Station. She also reported that she has talked about the issues with Health Ministries with both Jo Miller, Director of the Health Department, and Steve Kelly, CEO of Newton Medical Center.
5. Commissioner Krehbiel received inquiries about the interviewing process for the position of Road & Bridge Supervisor. There were interviews conducted with three of the candidates.
6. Commissioner Roberson attended a Council of Governments meeting where there was discussion about ambulance fees and the possibility of changing the process of how the funds are distributed.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend a Community Corrections meeting on March 7 in Judge Walker's chambers.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel will be in Topeka on March 25th for a workshop on municipal judge appointments.

Minutes of the March 7 Commission meeting, March 8 joint City/County Commission meeting, and March 9, 2011 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner presented the final reading for recommendation for appointment of Marsha Kaegi to the Harvey County RSVP Advisory Board. Commissioner

- Westfall made a motion to approve the appointment and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Director to re-appoint Jack Bender III, representing District #7, and Dr. William Wilson, representing District #8, and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  3. Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, presented **Resolution No. 2011-8**, changing the rates at the Harvey County Transfer Station and Construction and Demolition landfill. The fee changes include charges for electronic waste disposal and tire disposal. Commissioner Westfall suggested that the Director be given the authority to change the rates as disposal rates increase, providing that it is a not-for-profit transaction. Fee charges would still have to be published in the newspaper and at the Transfer Station. Changes to the proposed resolution will be made and brought back before the Commission next week.
  4. Roy reported that the offer from KCAMP for the scraper that burned is \$100,000. He asked Foley Tractor for an estimate of what it would cost to rebuild it and they submitted a quote of \$130,000. However, \$16,000 was quoted for tires, which would not be needed. Roy would like to have the machine rebuilt providing that it would be insurable after it is completed. Roy will get additional information and present it to the Commission next week.
  5. Chad Frey, Newton Kansan Managing Editor, presented a proclamation declaring March 14-20 as Sunshine Open Government Week. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve and sign the proclamation. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  6. The Commissioners signed letters of commendation to Brandon Huntley for successfully locating a lost elderly gentleman, and Scott Davies for assisting a citizen in determining whether their property was in the new flood plain.
  7. John Waltner reported that staff met with Foulston Siefkin last week and came to a consensus about changes that are to be made to the personnel manual.
  8. Craig Clough, Appraiser, reported that an application for exemption for the ranger residence at East Lake has been denied by the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals. He is researching the issue and plans to provide additional information to COTA, and they will hopefully reverse the decision.
  9. John Waltner, Administrator, and Jo Miller, Director of the Health Department, met with Health Ministries and discussed a variety of issues. Health Ministries has asked for the remaining county appropriation to be paid now in a lump sum. The Commissioners agree that the funding should continue to be paid on a quarterly basis.
  10. Sheriff T. Walton reported that grant applications for jail management and bullet proof vests have been written. He also reported that a rolling meth lab was discovered last week. They are also seeing an increase in wire thefts on crop irrigation systems. It costs approximately \$7,000 to replace the wire on the systems.

11. Byron Warta reported that there is a proposal to dredge some area lakes because of sediment from the Whitewater River. Since the Whitewater River extends into Harvey County, this is of concern. Information has been provided to the County Attorney.
12. The county auditors are here for the next two weeks to conduct the annual audit.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$153,004.38 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously. Hand-written checks in the amount of \$ 464.95 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Diana Coggin, representative of Clean Line Energy Partners, Houston, Texas, gave a presentation on the Grain Belt Express, which is a project to connect renewable energy resources to rural areas. The 3500 megawatt transmission line will connect Southwest Kansas to the St. Louis area. The company is visiting all counties that the line will traverse. They have filed to become a utility in the State of Kansas and are working on regulatory filings and developing the route which they plan to file with the KCC in 2012. Roundtables with each county involved will be held in May and June.

Courtney Becker, Director of 911 Communications, updated the Commission on the 911 bill before the legislature. The League of Kansas Municipalities is supportive of a 2% funding for telecommunications companies. The Kansas Association of Counties does not support the telecommunications funding. This could stall the bill.

At 12:25 p.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 12:40 p.m. with no action being taken. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to offer the position of Road and Bridge Supervisor to Jim Meier for a salary of \$57,000. The start date for the position is April 1, 2011. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Ron Krehbiel, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Marge Roberson, Member

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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member