

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

**May 31, 2011**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 31, 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 informed the Commission that Kevin Stubbs, Director of Caring Hands Humane Society, will attend the meeting at 9:30 a.m. to participate in the discussion about an incident that occurred at East Lake involving a pit bull dog.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Halstead firefighter picnic will be held on June 4th in Halstead.
2. Commissioner Roberson will attend a KCAMP meeting on June 23rd.
3. There will be a Council of Governments meeting on July 13th. The three area legislators will be there.

Minutes of the May 23, 2011 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Roberson, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to waive the second week reading and appoint Wiley R. Smith to the RSVP Advisory Council for a term of three years beginning June, 2011 and ending June, 2014. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to approve the appointment of Ruth Sperling to replace Roland Miller as Treasurer of Pleasant Township. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
3. The Commissioners received an invitation to the dedication and open house of the newly constructed Newton Fire/EMS Station Number Three. The station opening will take place on June 9th at 2:00 p.m.
4. A hearing will be held before the State Court of Tax Appeals on July 29th at 11:30 a.m. regarding the exemption status of the residence at East Lake.
5. The Commissioners signed letters of support to three members of the Kansas Corporation Commission in support of the application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC to operate as a public utility in the state of Kansas. The letters will be sent to Commissioners Ward Loyd, Thomas Wright, and Mark Sievers.
6. Work is being done to draft an agreement to make necessary improvements on South Spencer Road between 48th and 60th Streets. The agreement would enable Darlington Township to accept some funds from landowners for road maintenance. Commissioner Roberson expressed reluctance to involve the

- county in township issues and advised that the county proceed with caution.
7. Congressman Mike Pompeo contacted Lonnie Buller, Emergency Management Director, and asked him to provide contact information for use in emergency situations. The contact list that will be given in order is Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, County Administrator, and then the Commissioners.
  8. The Commissioners briefly discussed possible new funding mechanisms for the Economic Development Council. However, it has been reported to John Waltner that the changes will probably be delayed for another year.
  9. John Waltner, Administrator, and Linda Kientz, Personnel Director, have been meeting with a company called Group Benefit Specialists. It has been decided to enter into a contract with them to hopefully obtain group health insurance for 2012 at a lower rate. The 2012 rates from the current health insurance group are expected to increase substantially.
  10. The Commissioners received a report on sales tax collections for the second quarter of 2011.
  11. The Commissioners also received a report prepared by Sheriff T. Walton detailing specific funding reductions of social services as passed by the state legislature.
  12. Christopher Stucky, owner of a dog that was attacked by a pit bull at East Lake a week ago addressed the commission to request stricter control of animals at East Lake, specifically at the swimming area. Mr. Stucky suggests stricter enforcement and more signage at the park. Kevin Stubbs, Director of Caring Hands Humane Society, stated that it will probably be difficult to enforce the rules at the park, but suggested that all dog owners at the park be required to provide proof of vaccination. The Commissioners suggested that research be collected on what policies other municipalities have on aggressive animals and how the policies are enforced. They also stated that this issue needs to be presented to the Park Advisory Board first and then work through the process to make some changes. The safety and security of campers needs to be addressed. It was also stated that there should be penalties for violation of the park rules with regard to animals.

#### **CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$80,200.33 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Arellano, Director of Data Processing, presented the proposed 2012 Data Processing budget. The budget includes a request for a SAN unit to provide more data storage at a cost of \$10,700, replacement of one server at a cost of \$8,000, replacement of switches at a cost of \$6,300, and an upgrade of application software at a cost of \$6,750.00.

Anthony Swartzendruber reported that Governor Sam Brownback announced today the Kansas South Central modernization and expansion road projects funding as provided by TWORKS. Two of the projects chosen for funding are located in Harvey County, the reconstruction of the

interchange at 36th Street and I-135, and a four-lane freeway on Highway 50 from 1 mile west of Anderson Road to Old Main in Newton which includes a new interchange there.

Rich Hanley, Director of Department on Aging, and Karen Kaufman, Transportation Director, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Department on Aging. Rich reported that respite care funds are depleted and KDOT reimbursement is diminished from 20% to 18%. KDOT is also implementing a regionalization of general public transportation to try to even out the funding distributions. The total budget request for 2012 for the Aging Department is \$282,072 compared to \$299,045 in 2010. The Transportation budget request for 2012 is \$167,653 compared to \$165,099 in 2011. Kathy Schwarzenberger, Director of the Newton Senior Center and Twila Kovac from Newton Meals on Wheels attended and thanked the Commission for their support.

Becky Fields, Treasurer, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Treasurer's and Driver's License office. The total budget request for 2012 is \$515,565 compared to \$525,291 in 2011. Discussion was held regarding proposed overtime for the department. The budget request contains \$3,500 in overtime.

Craig Clough, Appraiser, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Appraiser's Office. The total budget request is \$607,863 compared to \$589,866 for 2011. The budget contains a capital outlay request of \$7,500 for electronic data collection field tablets. Mr. Clough reported that 2011 is the first year that the new Orion appraisal software will be used to produce valuations. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

The meeting was recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, presented the proposed 2012 budget for the Road & Bridge Department. The total proposed budget is \$2,725,923 compared to \$2,211,963 in 2011. Mr. Meier reported that in 1999 \$34,000 would pave a mile of road 2 inches thick. That same mile would cost \$136,000 in 2011. The budget contains capital improvements in the amount of \$516,717 which includes a bridge match of \$199,417, mobile radios for \$10,200, a quick coupler compactor for \$7,100, and a pavement reclaimer for \$300,000. He also reported that overtime has been cut down in the department.

At 2:10 p.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended with no action being taken.

John gave the Commissioners information from Suzanne Loomis, Newton City Engineer, on a proposed agreement between Harvey County and the City of Newton on single stream trash recycling.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 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