

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

**December 17, 2012**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 17, 2012 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. A moment of silence was held to commemorate the 26 victims of an elementary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut and 2 police officers killed in a shooting in Topeka, Kansas.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that he received a positive comment on the mowing done by the Road & Bridge Department on North Woodlawn.
3. Commissioner Westfall reported that the REAP Legislative meeting held last week was informative and well attended. The Kansas Department of Transportation presented a projection sheet that indicates a possibility of the addition of three passing lanes on Highway 50 west of Newton to the county line.
4. Commissioner Roberson reported on the Council of Governments meeting held last Wednesday. The meeting included discussion about hiring Bernie Koch for a fee of \$6,000 to serve as a lobbyist for Harvey County. It was proposed that the fee be divided with the cities of Burrton, Sedgwick, Halstead, Hesston, North Newton, and Walton each paying \$500, the EDC paying \$500, and the remaining \$2,500 being split between the City of Newton and the County. It is believed that the coming legislative session could be a critical session with the involvement of many new legislators and many important issues to be decided.
5. Commissioner Roberson also reported that she attended the Public/Private Partnership breakfast where the EDC gave an extensive update on the progress of the Kansas Logistics Park. Discussion was also held about how to engage more people in the governing process. She suggested that members of the Newton Young Professionals group be encouraged to volunteer and make application to be on one of the various boards, such as the Parks Board, Planning Board, etc.
6. Commissioner Roberson also reported that she attended a KCAMP meeting last week. They are looking at some changes in their by-laws to include more representatives on their board.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The airport meeting scheduled for later this afternoon has been cancelled.
2. A KLPDA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19th at the Meridian Center at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of the December 10th Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Since the Commission will not meet next week because of the Christmas holiday, there are certain payments that will need to be made prior to the next meeting on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Commissioners received a copy of three invoices from Poe & Associates for the 2013 bituminous overlay, bridge inspection, and landfill surveying. The Commissioners agreed to the payment of these invoices prior to the end of the year.
2. John informed the Commission that there are two Christmas displays located on the front lawn of the Courthouse, a religious display on the north side of the sidewalk, and an "Old Man Winter" display on the south side of the sidewalk. The south display has access to electricity from the Courthouse. In the past, the north display had access to electricity from the lighted Hospice tree. However, this year the Hospice tree was not lighted because of the cost for the hookup. John suggested that the north display be moved to the south side of the sidewalk along with the existing display there and then both displays will have access to electricity.
3. Jerry Smith, representative with the ReNewton Bicycling Initiative group, presented the Commission with county maps, as requested by the Commission, with the bicycle routes prioritized by color. The total cost of proposed signage for these routes is approximately \$6,000. The bicycle group has begun a campaign to raise approximately \$1,000 to contribute to the cost of this signage. The group would like to have approximately 69 signs placed on these routes by the end of March next year. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, said this timeline would be a challenge with other signage projects already in progress. Commissioner-elect Randy Hague said this is a public safety issue and should receive some priority. Commissioner Roberson said this project is also in line with the wellness program supported by the Commission. Commissioner Westfall requested the final exact number of signs and the expected delivery date. Mr. Smith said the request is for 69 signs that should be ordered as soon as possible. The group will present the donated money whenever the County asks for it. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to direct staff to proceed with the project of signage for the specified bicycle routes, order 69 signs, accept the donation from the ReNewton Bicycling Initiative Group, and to proceed as quickly and efficiently as possible. He also congratulated the group for entering into this partnership with Harvey County. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
4. Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, gave the Commissioners an update on the new KanCare system for Medicaid patients, to be implemented by the State of Kansas on January 1, 2013. The three providers that Harvey County has signed contracts with are Sunflower Insurance, Amerigroup, and United Healthcare. The KanCare system will be implemented as of January 1, 2013. New Medicaid recipients will have a provider assigned to them and then they will have 90 days to change their provider if they choose to. The Health Department is ready for the changeover and staff is assisting clients as much as possible.
5. Lynnette also updated the Commission on the co-location collaboration of Prairie View, Health Ministries, and the Health Department. There have been two full staff

- meetings with the three entities. Health Ministries and Prairie View will be implementing an electronic records management system as of January 1, but Harvey County does not have an electronic system. Prairie View is attempting to raise \$300,000 to renovate the building on South Pine that has been purchased for the collaboration. There is no specific timeline.
6. Anthony Swartzendruber presented **Resolution No. 2012-25**, cancelling certain county warrants that are at least 2 years old. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the cancellation of these warrants. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  7. Anthony presented a draft of the Harvey County Compensation and Classification Policy to create standards and ensure consistency for determining the compensation and classification of positions in the Harvey County organization.
  8. The Commissioners received a picture of a new operator cage built by the Road & Bridge Department. The cage was built for the Gradall Excavator to protect the cab and operator. Commissioner Roberson thanked Jim Meier for providing the pictures and commended him for taking the initiative to recognize a problem that needed to be corrected.
  9. The date of the annual township dinner at the Road & Bridge Department has been set for February 12, 2013.
  10. Jim reported that Poe and Associates will be letting the bid for the 2013 overlay on South Hertzler Road.
  11. Sheriff T. Walton reported that Sheriff's Department employees and their families attended a Christmas party held at the West Park Community building last Saturday. He also reported that the Construction on Hwy 50 at Anderson Road on the south side of Newton has created a significant potential for accidents because of a sight problem. There were many complaints received about this problem on Saturday.
  12. In the wake of the school shooting in Connecticut, Sheriff Walton addressed courthouse security. He reported that the department is called at least once a week to take care of some problem in the courthouse. He said that courthouse security needs to be made a priority. Commissioner Westfall said that consistent procedures need to be followed in calling the Sheriff's Department to come to the courthouse. In 2014, Reno County plans to close all courthouse entrances with the exception of one, which will have a metal detector and an armed guard. Sheriff Walton stated that courthouse security needs to be made a priority in Harvey County.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

No items were presented during Public Forum.

A public hearing was opened at 10:15 a.m. to consider the issuance of refunding revenue bonds in the amount of \$3,500,000 to Kidron Bethel and refunding and improvement revenue bonds in the amount of \$10,500,000 to Schowalter Villa. Kevin Cowan, Bond Counsel with Gilmore & Bell, explained the bonds and stated that the rate will be approximately 2%. Ryan Goering, representing Schowalter Villa, attended the hearing. The hearing was closed at 10:19 a.m. Counselor Cowan presented the various necessary documents. It was noted that Woods Law Office, Tenant Counsel,

is owned by the son-in-law of John Waltner, County Administrator. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2012-26**, authorizing the issuance by Harvey County of not to exceed \$3,500,000 aggregate principal amount of health care facilities refunding revenue bonds (Kidron Bethel Project) to provide funds to finance, refinance, reimburse and refund the costs of a project for Kidron Bethel Retirement Services, Inc. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2012-27**, authorizing the issuance by Harvey County of not to exceed \$10,500,000 aggregate principal amount of health care facilities refunding and improvement revenue bonds (Schowalter Villa Project) to provide funds to finance, refinance, reimburse and refund the costs of a project for Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities of Kansas, Inc. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Dr. Bert Bennett of ICM, Inc. presented a request for the extension of a lease agreement for a period of six months, in order for ICM to decommission the current gasifier located at the site of the Harvey County Landfill. Dr. Bennett thanked the county for allowing them to test the unit here. It has been determined that it is not cost effective to locate here so they will instead try to re-locate in another area. Roy Patton, Director of the Transfer Station, expressed his appreciation of the project and said that it has been a pleasure to work with ICM. Commissioner Westfall said that a lot of changes have occurred in the last four years and that Harvey County has had a long-standing interest in trash to energy. Roy requested that the concrete pads that were added for the project be left intact. ICM will notify KDHE that the unit will be decommissioned. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve and sign the lease extension agreement between ICM and Harvey County. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Jim Meier introduced Sandra Clark and Ron Seitz who explained the Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange Program. The program allows local public agencies to “sell” their federal funds to KDOT in exchange for state dollars, which are less restrictive and less costly. The exchange rate is 90 cents on the dollar. Local agencies can then construct projects without all the regulation and oversight from the federal government. The funds can be banked for up to three years. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with discussions to participate in the federal funds exchange program. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$145,536.02 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 11:33 a.m. to attend the quad-county meeting at Bethel College.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Director of the Harvey County EDC, updated the Commission on the status of the Kansas Logistics Park and other EDC projects. The EDC chooses to take a proactive approach to economic development as opposed to a reactive approach.

At 1:53 p.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 20

minutes to discuss economic development. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were Mickey Fornaro-Dean, John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, Commissioner-Elect Randy Hague, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 2:15 p.m. with no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marge Roberson, Chairperson

*George A. "Chip" Westfall*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:

*Joyce Truskett*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

*Ron Krehbiel*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

