

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 30, 2012

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on January 30, 2012 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Westfall received a citizen complaint about the bridge east of Hillside on SE 36th Street. There is cupping on the approaches to the bridge. The Road and Bridge Department will take care of the problem.
2. Commissioner Westfall informed the Commission that REAP will host the weekly meeting of the South Central Kansas Delegation of the Legislature. Five district maps are currently being considered in the process of redistricting. One of them would cut the northeast corner of Harvey County and place it in another district, leaving Walton in the 4th District. Another of the plans would take the northwest corner of the county and place it in the 1st District. The other three plans would not affect the 4th District in Harvey County.
3. Chairman Roberson asked the County Clerk about the change in election law regarding when the canvass after the election is to be held. Before the change in the law the canvass was held on Friday following the election or the following Monday if necessary. Joyce Truskett will review the changes in the date of the canvass at next week's meeting.
4. Chairman Roberson also reported that she was elected president of the KCAMP Board for the 2012 year.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend a lunch meeting with the Council of Governments representatives from the 3rd Commission District on February 2 at Cy's Place in Sedgwick. In addition to Commissioner Krehbiel, those attending will be J.R. Hatfield, Halstead City Administrator; Jaci Reimer, Sedgwick City Administrator, and Jim Heinecke, Burrton City Administrator
2. Commissioner Westfall will attend the REAP Board meeting to be held on February 8 in Topeka.
3. Commissioner Roberson will attend a KCAMP meeting in Topeka on March 2.
4. Commissioners Westfall and spouse and Krehbiel and spouse will attend the Planning & Zoning appreciation dinner on February 7.

Minutes of the January 23, 2012 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner reported that he received a note from Sue Ann Jantz, Attorney, to inform the Commission that a bill is being presented to the legislature that would include grandparents in Child in Need of Care cases. This could affect the indigent defense costs that the County pays.
2. John also received a letter from Judge Walker to notify the Commission about a case that will require the appointment of an indigent defense attorney. All four of the attorneys serving on the indigent defense panel have a conflict, so Kevin Loeffler is being appointed to handle this case. It could cost a substantial amount of money if this case goes to court.
3. John received notification from Randall Allen, Director of KAC, that an amendment has been introduced in the legislature that applies to county commissions when they propose to levy more dollars than levied the prior year. The amendment would require that a resolution be passed to increase the dollar amount and the resolution would have to be published. There is concern that this would open a discussion again regarding the levies and that a spending lid cap could be included at the last minute.
4. The Kansas Logistics Park Development Authority meeting will be held tomorrow at the Meridian Center.
5. The Commissioners and Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, will travel to Pawnee County on Feb 1 to view bridges that are constructed using a railroad boxcar.
6. Anthony Swartzendruber has been asked to teach a class on budget process and preparation at the County Government Institute sponsored by the KAC.
7. John reported that an incident occurred last week with a Road & Bridge dump truck. The truck bed was raised and the dirt was stuck at the top of the bed. The bed overturned, twisting and bending the frame of the truck, but not overturning the cab of the truck. The truck is able to be repaired.
8. A recommendation for the appointment of Cheryl Jefferson Bell to the Harvey County Advisory Committee to Prairie View was presented. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to appoint Ms. Bell to the Advisory Committee, waive the 2nd week reading, and give the Chairman the authority to sign. The term would run from December, 2011 through December, 2014. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
9. John reported that the water bill for the Pleasant Township building, which has been coming to the Harvey County Parks Department and then forwarded to the Township, will now be sent directly to the township. Kass Miller, East Park Supervisor, took care of the changes.
10. Melanie Babbitt, CASA Director, requested that the Commission allow a Pinwheel Garden on the courthouse lawn during the month of April to bring awareness to child abuse in Harvey County. Pinwheels will represent the number of child abuse investigations in Harvey County. In 2011 there were 423 investigations conducted by SRS in Harvey County and 658 cased in the judicial district which includes McPherson. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to

- approve a pinwheel garden on the courthouse lawn during the month of April to bring awareness to child abuse. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
11. Ms. Babbitt also requested and was granted permission to use the Courthouse Community Room to sort Girl Scout Cookies.
 12. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, presented an updated LEPC membership list. The group has expanded significantly. The next meeting of the LEPC is February 8th at 9:00 a.m.
 13. There have been a number of reports and questions from rural residents about the pickup of trash and recycling by Waste Connections. Harvey County has mandatory recycling in the rural areas. John reported that he and Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, had a meeting with several employees of Waste Connections last week. Roy reported that customers had reported that Waste Connections instructed them to place their recyclables bag in with the trash. Customers said that both the recyclables and trash were picked up on the same day with the same truck. Waste Connections stated that the trash and recyclables are picked up on a separate day, using a different truck. They are now asking rural customers to use a cart. The other issue that was discussed is that they are no longer picking up trash on individual properties; it must be pushed out to the township road. Waste Connections has encountered liability issues with “garage” pickups so they now charge extra for that service. It was also discovered that West Park is not listed as a recycling customer, but the County pays for the recyclables to be picked up. Since the Park is not listed as recycling, the driver picks up the recyclables and puts them in with the regular trash. Roy suggested that maybe to enforce the recycling effort, that each truck be charged a permit fee for recycling. Efforts will be made to increase the communication gaps between Waste Connection management and their truck drivers, and the rural customers.
 14. Chairman Roberson reported that she had lunch with Jim Skelton, Sedgwick County Commissioner, and that he is very interested in the ICM gasification system that is being developed at the old Harvey County Landfill.
 15. Jim Meier reported that, through a collaborative effort with BNSF and the City of Newton, the crossing at Spencer and Old Trail Road has been improved. The Road & Bridge Department also completed repairs to the front steps at the Law Enforcement Center.
 16. The Commissioners received a copy of a letter that was sent to affected residents regarding the closing of the bridge located on Southwest 96th Street between South Kansas and South Meridian. The bridge was declared unsafe by the County Engineer/Bridge Inspector. Commissioner Krehbiel received a report from a citizen that there is a bridge on Golden Prairie Road north of the Alta Township Shop that has holes in the boards of the bridge.
 17. Anthony Swartzendruber presented the quarterly publication of expenditures for the quarter ending December 31, 2011. He also presented the sales tax report for January, 2012. Sales tax collections were up 2.66%, but the use tax was down 4.66%.

18. The requests for proposals to perform a compensation and classification study were due last Friday at 5:00 p.m. The six proposals that were received were from the following companies:
 - Organizational Development Services - Evergreen, CO
 - Hay Group – Kansas City, MO
 - McGrath Consulting Group Inc. – Wonder Lake, IL
 - The Austin Peters Group, Inc. – Overland Park, KS
 - Springstead, Inc. – Kansas City, MO
 - Public Sector Personnel Consultants – Tempe, AZSince these are proposals, not bids, they will not be opened in a public forum. All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated to make sure all criteria is met and then will be brought back before the Commission.
19. Byron Warta reported that the Governor spoke to the Kansas Water Authority last Thursday. There was some discussion on the “use it or lose it” water permits and flex accounts for irrigators. “Use it or lose it” is supported by the Governor. Water will be used as an economic development tool for the State of Kansas. There was a lot of emphasis on possible drought this summer.

CITIZEN’S FORUM:

There were no citizens present for Citizen’s Forum.

Sheriff T. Walton reported that a report of a vehicle in a ditch was received last Wednesday. Upon investigation, it was found to be stolen and full of tools. In another incident, there was also a suspect found trying to steal a vehicle and other items at another location. There was also a chase in the northwest part of the county, and also an incident in the courthouse. He says that incidents of this nature, most of which involve amphetamines, are increasing and the danger to the deputies responding to the calls is much increased.

Sheriff Walton presented the year end report for the Sheriff’s Department. The report lists crime statistics as compiled by the Enterpol Reporting Management System. The statistics are fairly comparable to the 2010 statistics. The calls for service increased significantly in 2010 and continued to increase in 2011. Although there are increased needs, staffing has not increased. The City of Newton Police Department has been helpful when the Sheriff Officers are all busy.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$149,272.68 and handwritten checks in the amount of \$5,331.15 for the week of 1/26/12 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Piepho, Deputy Clerk, presented several possible options for the Commissioners to consider for making the Commission Districts more equal. Although it is not mandatory to redistrict the Commission districts, the State will redistrict in 2012 and the Commission districts should be as equal in population as possible. The options were developed according to the latest census figures from the 2010 census. The options presented were discussed and Commissioner Westfall proposed another option that would better allow for future growth in his district. His district is

currently the largest and is the most likely to grow in the future. Rick was directed to work on the proposed change and present it to the commission in the future.

The Commission signed the employment contract for Administrator John Waltner that was approved during the last meeting.

At 11:27 a.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 8 minutes to discuss attorney/client matters. 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 at 11:35 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Marge Roberson, Chairman



George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:



Joyce Truskett, County Clerk



Ron Krehbiel, Member

