

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 4, 2012

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on June 4, 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 attended a REAP legislative committee meeting on May 30 in Wichita. His position will be changing and he will become a member of the legislative committee.
2. The Commissioners attended the employee picnic on Sunday, June 3. They commended the West Park staff for getting everything prepared. Commissioner Roberson thanked Ron, Chip & John for grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs.
3. Byron Warta reported that he attended a water meeting on Thursday and the legislative person there reported that almost all the major water legislation was passed by the legislature and most have been signed by the governor.
4. The Extension Council budget will be an agenda item at next week's Commission meeting.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The Commissioners are invited to the McPherson/Harvey County Community Corrections Board meeting to be held at the Moundridge Community Center on June 18 at 5:30 p.m. The Department of Corrections Under-Secretary will be there. All three Commissioners will attend.
2. Commissioner Westfall announced that US Representative, Mike Pompeo, will be the featured speaker at the REAP meeting on Monday, June 11, 2012.

Minutes of the May 29, 2012 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner informed the commissioners that letters have been sent to the cities in Harvey County that will be affected by the Detention Center fee increase.
2. John highlighted information included in the packets, including an update on the US 50 roundabout construction project at Anderson Road, an article on transportation funding, and a newsletter from the County Communications Department.
3. The Road & Bridge Department recently helped deliver signs, barricades, flashing lights, etc. to assist with the Newton High School Senior's party. The County received a thank-you note from the parent's committee.

4. The annual Health Ministries' dinner and silent auction will be held on June 9th. The County will have a table for eight people, including Commissioners Roberson and Krehbiel and spouses, Jo Miller and spouse, and John Waltner and spouse.
5. The Commissioners discussed the Economic Development Council contract with Troy Carlson of Initiatives Inc. The Commission agreed earlier in the year to remain in the relationship through the end of April. The county currently has invoices from the EDC for the months of May & June that remain unpaid. The Commissioners questioned whether the county share of the costs should change and if Mr. Carlson's services are still required. Commissioner Roberson suggested that maybe the funding should come through the KLPDA rather than the EDC. She also pointed out that what the benefits from the development of the KLP will be different for the City of Newton than for Harvey County. Commissioner Westfall is concerned that Mr. Carlson's services in economic development are not exclusive to the KLP in this region. The Commissioners would like to receive more information on his activities for the KLP. Commissioner Krehbiel although he is a supporter of economic development and that he feels that Mr. Carlson has done a good job, he is against continuing the contract because of the significant cost. Commissioner Roberson pointed out that when the additional 1% sales tax was passed, the City of Newton was allowed to receive 50% of what the County would have received under the distribution formula in order to allow all the communities in the County to receive benefit from the tax. The County committed to use 1/3 of the revenue for property tax reduction, 1/3 for infrastructure, and 1/3 for economic development. John said the additional sales tax revenue has definitely affected the mill levies in a positive way. Ongoing discussions with the EDC and Troy Carlson need to be held before this issue can be resolved. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to pay the May EDC invoice for consulting fees for Troy Carlson, with the check to be printed immediately. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion. Commissioners Westfall & Roberson voted yea, and Commissioner Krehbiel voted nay. The motion passed 2 to 1.
6. Anthony Swartzendruber presented a map of the area of interest near East Lake for the proposed oil & gas lease of Harvey County owned land.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Byron Warta, EDC board member appointed by the Harvey County Commission, expressed his opinions regarding economic development. He stated that the commission should think outside-the-box in regards to economic development. He cited the success that the Port of Catoosa has had over 20 years after starting from nothing and out-of-the-box thinking. He also gave the Bentonville, Arkansas area as an example of successful economic development.

Sheriff T. Walton reported that the jail population is 118 and that a burglar was apprehended this morning. The Detention Center is taking applications for two open positions.

Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, reported that Paul Ferguson of Poe & Associates, who has served as the Engineering consultant for the County, has accepted a position with Airbus in Wichita, beginning June 28. Mr. Ferguson has done an exceptional job for the County and Chairman Roberson suggested that a letter be sent to him thanking him for his service. Commissioner Westfall also requested that Jim check into cleaning the silt traps on the west side of East Lake.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$29,088.86 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Rich Hanley, Director of Department on Aging, presented the proposed 2012 budget. The budget reflects the emphasis in assisting seniors in their own homes longer. The respite care program, which provides caregivers approximately 8 hours of free assistance per month, continues to grow. The budget presented includes a decrease of \$10,000 in funding for the ENLITE Program, which provides large print books to seniors, and instead increases funding for the respite care program. Marianne Eichelberger, Director of the Newton Public Library, expressed concerns about the decrease in funding for ENLITE, which serves approximately 200 clients per year with the distribution of approximately 17,700 items. Public transportation usage has also continued to increase, however state and federal funding for this program has decreased. The budget also includes a capital outlay request of \$1,200 for the purchase of a computer. The budget also reflects an increase of \$4,700 in the funding for the Mid-Kansas Senior Center Association, which is a group that represents all senior centers in Harvey County. Robert Carlton, Advisory Board member, attended the meeting and expressed appreciation for his time on the Board. He will be retiring from the board after serving for 9 years. Orlyn Zehr, who has also served for 9 years, will be retiring from the board. He thanked the Commission for their support. He also presented information from the 2010 census that gives the economic impact of older adults in Harvey County.

Jo Miller, Health Department Director, and Sindy Dick presented the proposed 2013 Health Department budget. Revenues at the Department are anticipated to decrease and there is uncertainty as to how the merger with Health Ministries will affect the Department in the next year. The budget includes a request of \$22,000 for the purchase of an additional vehicle and \$155,800 for the purchase of an electronic health records system, which will be required by the state in order to be able to exchange information with other Health Departments. Depending on the integration with Prairie View, there is also a request to change two of the part-time nurses to full-time. The Commission will take the proposed budget under advisement.

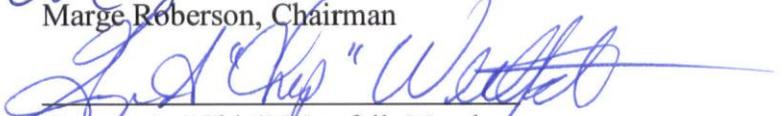
Sharon Arellano and Lee Ann Daniels presented the proposed 2013 Data Processing budget. The budget reflects the continued increase of maintenance contracts for equipment. It also includes a \$4,000 increase because of the addition of the GIS program on the Harvey County website. The Commission will take the proposed budget under advisement.

The Commission left at 11:50 a.m. to attend lunch at the Harvey County Historical Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Marge Roberson, Chairman


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk


Ron Krehbiel, Member

