

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 19, 2012

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 19, 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 reported that SB549 has been introduced in Topeka that will appoint a committee to oversee KANCARE. He also said that there is a bill in process that would repeal the outdated jail matron laws.
2. Commissioner Westfall gave a good news report from last month's aviation meeting that Hesston College Aviation reported their highest enrollment and that 70% of the graduates are going on to commercial rated aviation jobs.
3. Commissioner Roberson was approached with a complaint by a constituent about the county commission only meeting during the day, she told him that the commission has discussed this issue in the past and may look at making changes in the future.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Due to the weather, the planned viewing of concrete dump sites in the county has been postponed to an unknown date in the future.
2. There will be a REAP executive meeting on March 29, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in Wichita, followed by a REAP economic development meeting at 12:00 noon.

Minutes of the March 12, 2012 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner reported that Jim Meier, Anthony Swartzendruber, Paul Ferguson and himself drove out to inspect the seal job that was done on Old 81 Highway last summer by Heft & Sons. They agreed that there are issues with the quality of workmanship that need to be addressed. He contacted the owner Steve Heft and he agreed to meet this coming Friday at 11:00 a.m.
2. John updated the commissioners on the status of the Treasurer's Office motor vehicle system upgrade that has been postponed multiple times. He stated that the new date to be live on the new system is Tuesday, May 8, 2012. The Motor Vehicle office will close on April 5 for a short time from 8 – 9 a.m. to install the upgrade for training purposes. They will be closed to the public from 5:00 p.m. on April 30 thru May 7 for the conversion. The tax window will remain open to accept tax payments.
3. John presented the commissioners a Fair Housing Month Proclamation for consideration. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to celebrate 44 years of

Fair Housing and proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in Harvey County. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion. Commissioner Westfall amended the motion to have the Chair of the Commission sign the proclamation and it was passed unanimously.

4. Craig Clough, County Appraiser reported that they are adjusting property valuations on less than 2 acre homesites in the southern part of the county. The sales price per acre has increased significantly in the last year. He stated that the valuations should have been directly based per acre on recent 3 - 4 acre sales, instead of being increased by economy of scale. He felt it was better to do this now, proactively, than have challenges after valuations and budgets are set. The corrected valuation model is much easier to support if brought before the Court of Tax Appeals. The overall valuations for this area will still be higher than last year. His office is mailing the corrected valuations to owners of approximately 400 properties this week.
5. Jo Miller, Health Department Director, presented a status update of the Harvey County Health Department to the commissioners. She presented a menu of services offered which is being updated because they are in the process of adding new services such as outreach programs with the schools. Starting in May they will start integrating with Prairie View and Health Ministries. Facilitated community health needs assessments will now be required. Assessments must be completed every 3 years for non-profit hospitals and every 5 years for local health departments. A \$50,000 annual excise tax will be imposed on hospitals failing to meet assessment rules. She is in the process of creating a budget and implementing a task force of all health agencies and organizations in the county to complete an assessment to be shared. The last time a complete assessment was done was 1996. The assessment will be crucial to Health Department accreditation and future funding and grants. She also presented the new mission statement for the Harvey County Health Department. The new mission statement is: "The Harvey County Health Department's mission is to empower individuals, organizations, and communities in Harvey County to preserve and protect their health and well being by preventing disease and promoting health."
6. Sheriff T. Walton reported that there were 5 burglaries in the county since last Friday and 21 since the first of the year. He wants to encourage citizens to report suspicious activity right away. He is looking at dividing the county into quadrants with a deputy in each at all times. He also reported that a 2-day National Institute of Corrections (NIC) assessment of the law enforcement center will begin on March 20.
7. Anthony Swartzendruber distributed information on the debt service of the county. He showed that the county currently uses about half of the allowable limit of General Obligation Bond debt which is 3% of assessed tangible valuation.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

There were no citizens present for Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$35,326.23 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheryl Ervin and Richard Basore from the KDHE Watershed Management Section presented information regarding the Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP) transition plan. They emphasized the importance of a LEPP plan for maintaining and enforcing a sanitary code even in the absence of state funding. This program is the permitting authority for onsite wastewater systems and private water wells. If funding is absent for SFY 2013 KDHE-WMS will shift their focus to comprehensive training and technical support.

Kass Miller, East Lake Supervisor, and Shannon Metz, West Park Ranger, opened bids for the purchase of fish to stock all three Harvey County lakes. The only bid submitted was from Harbin Fish Farm for a total of \$18,796.40. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to award the contract for fish stocking at Harvey County Lakes to Harbin Fish Farm. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The Commission left for the quad county meeting in Reno County at 11:00 a.m.

At 2:15 p.m. Anthony Swartzendruber, Finance Director, presented an option suggested by the City of Newton to have Harvey County issue the bonds for the Newton City/County Airport runway improvement project. The City of Newton and Harvey County have an agreement to share the expenses at the airport equally. The bonds would be issued by the Harvey County Public Building Commission with the City of Newton paying one-half of the costs. The runway improvement bonds could possibly be combined with the bond issuance already authorized by the County for the Community Hangar project. The Commissioners agreed to have Anthony continue to gather information and work with the county bond counsel to propose a bond resolution to be presented to the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk


Marge Roberson, Chairman


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member


Ron Krehbiel, Member