

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 15, 2012

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on October 15, 2012 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel asked about the specifications for the rental of the West Park former ranger's residence. This will be discussed later in the meeting.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he, Commissioner Westfall, John Waltner, and Byron Warta attended an open house at IMMI, a newly located company at Burrton. IMMI expressed their appreciation for the assistance they received from the Economic Development Council in locating at Burrton. They commented that they had new facilities located in three locations and that the Harvey County location was by far the easiest to work with, and that the workers that had been hired had the best work ethic. Rodney Redinger, Burrton City Councilman, also expressed appreciation for the work performed by the Harvey County Road and Bridge Department, making sure the access to the facility was upgraded and repaired.
3. Commissioner Westfall, who serves as the Chairman of the REAP Legislative Committee, said that a survey is being mailed out today to request that people rank what the main concern for cities and counties are. There are also rumors that HUD is going to be shut down. He also reported that he has been asked to testify before a state legislative committee on November 15th in support of the "Affordable Airfares" program.
4. Commissioner Westfall reported that he attended the Walton school fundraiser last Friday, to raise funds for the construction of an addition to school. They are trying to raise \$325,000.
5. Commissioner Roberson reported that all three commissioners met with Senator Jerry Moran last week at Bunting Magnetics. She was impressed with his knowledge of manufacturing and is appreciative of his support of the wind energy industry.
6. Commissioner Roberson reported that she attended the Council of Governments meeting last week where she talked with Representative Don Schroeder. There is concern about taxes, that in addition to funding cuts, the state may also put a cap on taxation. She reported that the Taste of Newton was well attended.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. There will be a candidate's forum held at the McKinley board room tomorrow evening.

Minutes of the October 8, 2012 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Becky Fields, Treasurer, updated the Commission on the status of continuing issues with the newly implemented motor vehicle system. She reported that the county received a check from the State of Kansas in the amount of \$4,558.50 to reimburse expenses associated with the changeover of the system. This amount is an estimate that was set by the state. There continues to be issues with the functionality of the system. She also reported that they are unable to give out new tags because the state cannot fill the orders for the new plates. Therefore only people that do not have a current tag will be issued a new plate. She also requested that the driver's license office not be moved out of the courthouse as was reportedly discussed in an earlier commission meeting. The office needs to remain in the Courthouse because of security concerns.
2. The Commissioners received a report from Craig Clough summarizing the impact of the proposed trade fixtures exemption. The impact on Harvey County could mean a mill levy increase of approximately three mills. However, in addition, there would be mill levy increases from cities also. The bill is gaining momentum and there are at least 50 new legislators in Topeka next spring and they may not understand the impact on taxpayers.
3. In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Westfall, John reported that the service provider for medical waste processing is Health Care Solutions, who is a subsidiary of Waste Management.
4. A resolution was passed last week to sell surplus items from West Park on Purple Wave. Although it was not listed on the items for sale, there is also some copper wire that they no longer need. At 90 cents per pound, the value of the wire is \$17.50. John Waltner asked permission to purchase the wire. The Commissioners agreed to the sale.
5. The proposed changes to the travel and expense policy were discussed. Department heads have been asked to review the policy. One of the concerns with the policy is that there would be an issue with employees staying at a hotel where a conference is being held because the rates for a hosting hotel are always more expensive. Because the IRS requires that lunch meals only be reimbursed if associated with an overnight stay, Anthony Swartzendruber has recommended that this not be included in the policy as a reimbursable expense. The IRS stipulates that lunch reimbursements are a taxable benefit if they are not associated with an overnight stay, however it would be difficult for the county payroll system to accommodate this. Commissioner Westfall suggested that one person from the county be designated as the person who will handle airline reservations. The policy will be voted on at the next commission meeting.
6. The Commissioners received a FEMA discovery report for the Little Arkansas Watershed District. As a part of the FEMA Risk Mapping, the report was done to provide a foundation for potential flood risk projects. Numerous meetings have been held to determine what the issues are in various points along the watershed because of increasing population and flood risks. The goal of FEMA is to contain water and reduce flood damage.

7. The lease agreement for the West Park ranger's residence was discussed. A default provision was added to the draft. There was a clarification on what animals would be allowed and whether the deposit fee would be required if the animals would be kept outside only. There will be a deposit fee of \$1,200 whether the animals are inside or outside and animals would be either cats or dogs. Animal ordinances in place at West Park would also apply to pets owned by the renter. Renters will be allowed to smoke outside only. Notification of inspection will be given to the renter in advance.
8. Counselor Nye briefly discussed the renewal of a lease for the office building on the ResCare campus located at 700 E. 14th St. He recommends that several changes be made. The lease will be brought before the Commission at a future commission meeting.
9. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to waive the 2nd week reading and appoint Shawn Chapman to replace T. Walton on the Harvey County Advisory Committee to Prairie View. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
10. Chairman Roberson signed the voting delegate appointment form for the KCAMP meeting in November. The voting delegates were nominated and voted on during the commission meeting last week.
11. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to nominate Commissioner Marge Roberson to the KCAMP Board of Directors for a two-year term commencing on January 1, 2013. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
12. The Commissioners received information on ground reinforced bridge abutments. They were encouraged to view a video on line about the construction of these abutments.
13. John informed the Commission that the presentation by ICM has been postponed until October 22.
14. The Commissioners received a summary of Harvey County expenditures and balances. Anthony reported that one fund has a negative balance because it is a grant fund and the reimbursement has not yet been received.
15. Sheriff T. Walton reported that they are working on getting some kind of device at the railroad crossing on NE 48th Street, where a fatality accident occurred several days ago. This may be a township road issue or it may be an issue for the railroad. There is also a problem with a partially collapsed culvert. There are also some issues with some brush and trees.
16. Jim set up a meeting to discuss what is happening with 5-year bridge plan that has been discontinued. There is a meeting today at 2:00 with representatives to receive clarity on what will be happening with state and federal funding.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$138,217.44 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Maurice Meirowsky, Harvey County Rural Water District No. 1, presented a request for a 30 ft. easement to place an underground water distribution line along Woodlawn crossing Newton City/County Airport land. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Anthony Swartzendruber explained that the current AS400 being used to run many of the major computer software programs for the county needs to be upgraded. Although the county has begun to look at windows based software that would not require an AS400, that type of expenditure is not budgeted for at this time. There is an amount listed in the capital improvement plan for this type of expenditure in 2015, but purchasing a new AS400 would buy some time and give the county a unit that would be eligible for service and maintenance. There is currently a bid from Thompson-Reuters to replace the Current AS400, which is no longer eligible for maintenance or upgrades, for \$28,000, with three years warranty and maintenance for no extra cost. This bid is good only through the end of October and is significantly less than bids that the Data Processing Department received last fall. The county bid policy would have to be waived to take advantage of this pricing. Lee Ann Daniels, Director of Data Processing, will put together a comparison sheet for the commissioners to look at.

At 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 30 minutes to discuss attorney/client privileged information. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:20 a.m. with no action being taken.

John reported that a Ditch Witch machine being transported on a trailer by an employee of West Park rolled off of a trailer after it began fishtailing and went into a ditch. The accident occurred just after 8:00 this morning. The Road and Bridge Department is assisting the Parks Department to get the trailer out of the ditch and the equipment returned to Ditch Witch. An insurance representative will be assessing the damage this afternoon.

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

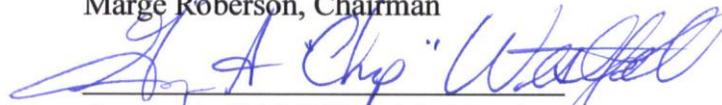
THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk


Marge Roberson, Chairman


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member


Ron Krehbiel, Member