

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

**September 17, 2012**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on September 17, 2012 with Commissioners Roberson and Westfall present. Commissioner Krehbiel was absent. Chairman Roberson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Westfall has received some calls from citizens about SE 36 Street. They suggested that it needed to be graded. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that there is a crew working on that road today.
2. Commissioner Roberson reported that she attended the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner where Steve Kelly, Newton Medical Center Director, was named the outstanding citizen of the year. The dinner was well attended.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The time of the REAP meeting scheduled for October 1 has been changed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Commission meeting scheduled for that day will begin at the regular time of 9:00 a.m.
2. The canvass of the November 6 General Election will be held on Monday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.
3. An in-service day for Harvey County employees will be held on Columbus Day, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Employee meetings with regard to health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, and KPERS will be held during the day. The Commissioners will meet briefly that day to approve the warrant check payments.

Minutes of the September 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting were corrected and approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Chairman Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Lynnette Reddington, Interim Health Department Director, introduced two new Health Department employees, Amber Childs, Healthy Start Home Visitor/Breastfeeding Peer Counselor; and Patrick Mwangi, Fiscal Management Coordinator.
2. John Waltner reported that the proposed date for the annual employee Christmas luncheon is Monday, December 3.
3. Kass Miller, East Park Supervisor, has received a request from Encana Drilling, to sell water from East Lake for a fracking site two miles north of the lake.
4. Ryan Flaming, East Lake Park Ranger, has resigned from the Parks Department to accept the position of the Harvey County Agricultural Extension Agent.
5. John reported that discussion is continuing regarding the reconstruction of Lincoln Blvd in Hesston. Jim Meier has produced an analysis of what the county position should be regarding this project.

6. The electrical work on the new camping pads at West Park will begin some time this week. Quotes for materials were received from three companies. The work will be performed by Rick Van Rossun, an employee at East Lake. John also reported that there have been some thefts at West Park after some campers were broken into. The bait shop was also broken into.
7. Discussions continue with Prairie View and Health Ministries developing plans with how the integration of the three will proceed.
8. The Commissioners received a letter from the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The letter was forwarded from Jackie Reimer, Sedgwick City Administrator.
9. The REAP Sustainability Grant Project is moving forward. Paula Downs met with John and Anthony Swartzendruber. The first meeting for the project will be held on September 27 in Wichita.
10. Greg Nye explained that paperwork has been filed and approved for the tax foreclosure sale which will take place on October 24. Counselor Nye has contacted one of the banks that holds a substantial mortgage on one of the properties.
11. A conference sponsored by the Economic Development Council titled "Emerging Trends" will be held at the Meridian Center on October 5. There will be representatives there from the Port of Catoosa, the Port Authority, and others who are involved in moving large amounts of agricultural products.
12. The proposed annexation of the Airport property into the City of Newton will be on the Commission agenda next week.
13. Jim Meier reported that the Pony Express Pipeline will be crossing through some of Harvey County. They have submitted a permit application.
14. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the recommendation to appoint Rosie Camargo to the RSVP Advisory council for a term of three years. The term will end in 2015. Chairman Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
15. Chairman Roberson signed a letter of congratulations to the 4-H Horticulture team, who won first place at the K-State Horticultural Conference. The members of the team are Josiah Schuter, Titus Schuter, and Haley Hendricks. They will travel to Wisconsin to compete in the National Horticultural Conference.
16. The Commissioners received an invitation from Jim Nickel, Newton City Commissioner to attend a lunch meeting with U.S. Representative Mike Pompeo today. They will not be able to attend as they are attending the Quad County meeting in Wichita.
17. Sheriff T. Walton reported that a fatality accident occurred last night at Woodberry Road and Dutch Avenue. He also reported that there is an interesting article in the Sunday Wichita Eagle about the conflicts with decision making between elected officials and government administrators.
18. Jim Meier reported that the Road & Bridge Department has been installing new street signs in Richland and Alta Townships. They also replaced the decking on a bridge on South Meridian south of 36<sup>th</sup> Street. He also reported that he was contacted by a vendor who gave him a bid price for the purchase of timbers for bridge plank

replacements. The price he quoted was just over \$10,000 for 100 planks, 24' X 3' X 12". The standard price is normally about \$120 per plank. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to waive the county purchasing policy, and allow the purchase of the timbers for the reduced price. Chairman Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

19. Counselor Greg Nye reported that he has been working on the tax foreclosure sale, a protest petition for a fire department, and some personnel issues.
20. Byron Warta reported that the drought throughout the state continues. More restrictions are expected to be placed on the Little Arkansas River. There was a meeting of the local regional BAC last Wednesday. There is a group from Hutchinson Community College who has been surveying the Uplands of Cheney Reservoir. They are finding that contamination problems are coming from stream bank erosion. He also reported that the runway construction at the airport is about seven days ahead of schedule. Some of the electrical work on the aprons is progressing slowly and delaying the pouring of the concrete.
21. John reported that interviews for the position of Health Department Director need to be scheduled as soon as possible. He proposed next Monday afternoon.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$721,032.92 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Chairman Roberson. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

There were no items presented during citizen's forum.

Mary Spires, RSVP Coordinator, presented the RSVP+ Volunteer Clearinghouse Implementation Plan, which is a centralized volunteer program for Harvey County residents under the age of 55. Because of new restrictions on the type of hours that can be counted toward a grant from the new Corporation for National and Community Service, the regular RSVP program could lose funding. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to direct the RSVP Coordinator to proceed with the senior services plan and pursue finding younger volunteers. Chairman Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Chairman Roberson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner and Counselor Greg Nye.

The Commissioners left at 10:45 a.m. to attend the Quad County Meeting in Wichita.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Marge Roberson*

Marge Roberson, Chairperson

*George A. "Chip" Westfall*

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:

*Joyce Fruskett*  
Joyce Fruskett, County Clerk

*abstained (not here on the 17th)*  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

