

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 9, 2013

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 9, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Hague referenced an article in the Newton Kansan about a tax abatement granted by the City of Halstead. He had some constituents that asked about the incentive and he was unaware of what had been granted. Chairman Westfall stated that the County Commission does not necessarily get notified of tax abatements granted by host cities. The incentives granted can be 100% abatements or tiered abatements and can be granted for either a five or ten year period.
2. Commissioner Hague said the sidewalks leading to the Courthouse were very slick this morning and asked that more be done to clear the walks when the weather is bad.
3. Chairman Westfall reported on the REAP Regional Legislative meeting that was held last Friday. AGCO representatives presented a portion of the program and talked about the shortage in welders at the plant. Water issues were also discussed.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. A retirement reception will be held at 1:30 on Friday, December 20 for Debbie Bartley who will be retiring from the Court Services Department.
2. Chairman Westfall will be attending a meeting of Fire District #1 in Walton on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.
3. The Public/Private Partnership meeting will be held on Friday, December at 13 at 7:00 a.m. at Charlie's Restaurant.
4. The monthly Chamber of Commerce breakfast will be held on December 20 at 7:00 a.m. Representatives from the Sand Creek Golf Course will speak about the United States Golf Association Amateur Public Links Championship to be held July 14-19.

Minutes of the November 25 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. The County will sponsor the Chamber breakfast on January 17, 2014. Paula Downs will give a presentation on the Prosperity Planning Project.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve and send a letter to Daniel Brazell thanking him for the construction of a new information kiosk at the Osage Nature Trail at East Park. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The project was completed as a requirement to become an Eagle Scout.
3. John Waltner reported that declining motor fuel tax revenues were also discussed at the REAP Legislative meeting. This is a problem nationwide and it is expected that

- there will be congressional legislation introduced to address the issue. However, if legislation is passed at the federal level, it is unlikely that there will be any kind of additional fuel tax increase in the State of Kansas.
4. The Commissioners received a copy of information from Terry Jacobs about copper thefts in the area. It is suspected that copper thieves are using the internet to locate electrical substations and irrigation pivots.
 5. John reported that a letter and mutual release was sent to Poe and Associates. After they received the letter, John Hubert came and talked to John again about continuing as the designated engineering firm for Harvey County. John told him that the County was in the process of hiring another firm to do the work.
 6. The City of Walton has notified the County that they will not participate in the 2014 funding for lobbyist, Bernie Koch.
 7. John stated that the REAP Legislative meeting was very informative. Also discussed was the possible repeal of the mortgage registration tax. It is anticipated that some change will be made to this source of revenue during the legislative session in 2014. Kansas is one of only nine states that have this tax. Harvey County stands to lose over \$300,000 in funding if this is repealed. Representative Schroeder is also planning to introduce two bills to deal with sales tax not being collected for internet sales. There is reportedly 43.5 billion in sales tax that is not being collected nationwide for state sales taxes.
 8. Harold Schorn, Court Trustee, will be moving to the courthouse in January. Discussion with CASA and Judge Walker has been held and it appears that there will be office space available in the CASA office for Counselor Schorn.
 9. John, Jessie Kaye, Director of Prairie View, and Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, will meet with the City of North Newton to request a donation of \$5,000 to assist in funding the Community Health Center collaboration. If granted, most of the funding will then be in place.
 10. John Introduced Kim Rowley who is the new Director of Harvey County Parks.
 11. Commissioner Hague made a motion to appoint Don Harper, as recommended by the remaining township officers, to fulfill the unexpired term of Clerk of Lake Township. Raymond Smith had previously resigned. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
 12. Lynnette Redington presented a letter to the Kansas Volunteer Commission confirming the match for grant award number 10VGHKS001. The match was fulfilled with operating expenses for personnel and supplies for the project, which was to increase volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corp. The total project match amount was \$2,815. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the letter and authorize the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
 13. Sheriff T. Walton reported that there were 7 slide-off accidents within a period of 3 hours on Sunday. Officers also apprehended a metal thief who was stealing copper using a stolen trailer.
 14. Byron Warta reported that fuel sales were increased at the airport last week because Jabara and Mid Continent in Wichita were shut down at times because of fog.
 15. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that the City of Newton will receive bids for the Community Airport Hangar on December 10. Next Monday, the PBC and the

County Commission will be requested to award the bid for the hangar. The City of Newton will approve the bid on Tuesday, December 17. The PBC annual meeting is scheduled for January 7. Anthony also provided bound budget books for the Commissioners and some staff. John expressed appreciation to Anthony for the improvements in financial reporting and the organized accessible information that is now available. He also thanked Dan Bronson for his assistance in this process and his work in putting the book together. The Commissioners also expressed their appreciation to Anthony and Dan.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$126,513.73 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Courtney Becker, Director of the Communications Department, presented an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for fiscal year 2013. The grant would assist in preparing for the shift to the 800 Mhz system. Jim Van Schaick, Halstead Fire Chief, assisted in the preparing the grant application and attended the meeting. The regional request for equipment includes the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Portable radios	175	\$3,100	\$542,500
Mobile radios	84	3,000	252,000
Specialized	12	4,166	49,992
Repeaters	6	20,000	120,000

Courtney stated that there is money in the 911 budget to fund the grant match. The earliest timeline possible for the project to be implemented is 2015. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the grant request and the payment of the 10% match. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Chairman Westfall acknowledged Chief Van Schaick and expressed appreciation for his assistance and work on this grant.

Lynnette Redington gave an update of ongoing projects to the Commission who is also the Harvey County Board of Health. She reported that most of the scheduled flu clinics have been completed, with 1,063 vaccinations being administered so far. Continuing programs include the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Program, the Healthy Harvey Coalition, and Emergency Preparedness. They have been working with KanCare for one year now and there are no reimbursement issues. The coalition of the Health Department, Prairie View, and Health Ministries continues to move forward, with the move to co-locate in a facility on South Pine Street to occur some time in 2014.

Becky Opland, Treasurer, updated the Commission on the Commercial Vehicle program that is scheduled to begin at the first of the year. She is concerned that the system is not yet completed and ready for implementation. Staff has been undergoing regular training, webinars, etc. Amanda Hitschmann reported on an extensive two-day training that she attended and also expressed her concern that the program is not yet ready to be implemented. Commissioner Hague and Commissioner Westfall stated that although there will likely be significant problems, it is necessary

to have the service available in Harvey County. The closest licensing office would be in St. John Kansas if Harvey County chooses not to participate.

Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that there were two trucks out yesterday morning clearing ice on roads. All county maintained roads were pretreated with an ice and sand mixture.

The meeting was recessed at 11:20 a.m. to attend the Harvey County employee Christmas dinner

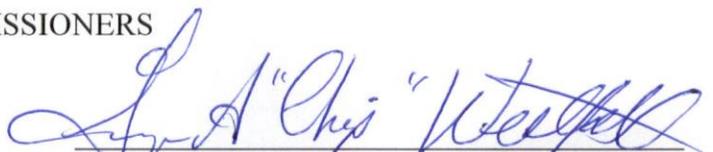
The meeting was reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

Greg Allison and Keith Ayotte of MKEC Engineering gave a presentation detailing their firm and how they would work with the County as the appointed County Engineer. Mr. Ayotte would be the main point of contact, but they are a full service firm, with several different types of engineers that will assist if necessary. There are very few engineering questions that they cannot answer. Mr. Ayotte detailed city and county services that are provided by the firm including transportation, storm water drainage, solid waste, water resources, and other services. He also presented an overview of project tracking and billing including regular reports on County projects that will be available to County staff. Contractual details are being worked on by Counselor Nye.

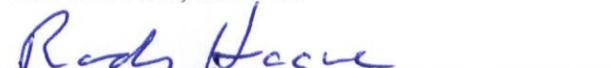
At 2:20 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Joyce Truskett, and Counselor Greg Nye. Executive session ended at 2:30 p.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Ron Krehbiel, Member


Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

