

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 16, 2013

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 16, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. The Commissioners received a letter from Lindburg, Vogel, Pierce, and Faris Accounting firm informing the County that Randall R. Hofmeier is now a shareholder and has been designated as the engagement shareholder responsible for supervising the Harvey County audit for the remainder of the contract.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

There were no items added or changed on the calendar.

Minutes of the December 9 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. The Commissioners received a communication from Paula Downs, Project Director of the REAP South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan, to clarify two questions that were asked during her presentation to the Commission a couple of weeks ago. Although the average living wage in the 5-county South Central Kansas region is \$17.78 per hour, there is not a national average to compare this with because it varies according to geography, population, size, etc. The second question was how the defined area, whose residents spend more than 50% of their total income on transportation and housing costs, compares on a national level. Transportation and housing costs are deemed unaffordable if they cost more than 45% of the total income.
2. The Commissioners received a picture of 12 pounds of metal that was picked up on 5 miles of road in Lakin Township. The metal was picked up by Terry Jacobs using a grader magnet. Other Townships are being encouraged to use magnets to remove metal debris.
3. John Waltner informed the Commissioners that the State DUI panel will meet in the courthouse twice during 2014, January 25th and again during the month of May.
4. John informed the Commissioners that Darla Stonehouse, Director of Nursing at the Health Department, has resigned but has agreed to help train her successor on a contract basis after she terminates employment with Harvey County.
5. The Commissioners received notification from the Kansas Development Finance Authority advising that financing will be made available under the "Beginning Farmer Program" for the purchase of 65 acres of agricultural land by Collyn and Jill Wiggers. Chairman Westfall requested a letter indicating the Commission's support for this project.

6. A brief discussion was held regarding tax abatements granted by host cities. The County and the affected school district also participate in the abatements. Counselor Nye will research and clarify the procedure to follow if the county or school district would choose to protest the abatement.
7. The opposition lawsuit against the depletion of the oil and gas depletion fund is moving forward. The County receives periodic reports and billings. The most recent billing for Harvey County was \$1.80.
8. Becky Opland, County Treasurer, reported on KCoVRS, which is the new Kansas commercial vehicle registration system that will be implemented as of January 1, 2014. Counties can opt out of the registration system if they so choose. Becky is very concerned that the program is not ready for implementation and that employees have not yet received adequate training. She suggests that Harvey County not participate in the program at this time. However, if the service is not made available in Harvey County, the closest available registration center would be St. John, Kansas. She requested that the Commissioners go to the Motor Vehicle Office to observe the staff as they try to complete a registration, which they have not been able to do because the system is not working properly. The Commissioners would like to make this service available for Harvey County commercial vehicle registrants. Commissioner Westfall requested that the IRP registration also be made available in Harvey County.
9. Willis Heck, representative of Harvey County for the Highway 50 Association updated the Commission on projects the association is working on. He explained that the association includes Harvey County and all counties west of here to the Colorado border. The association recently met and had discussions with Mike King, Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary. Funding was one of the main topics; with increased efficiency of vehicles causing a decrease in tax revenues from gasoline. Also discussed is the proposal to combine the Kansas Turnpike Authority with KDOT. The association also expressed their displeasure with KDOT being the bank for the state general fund.
10. Sheriff T. Walton reported that he has learned that if the legislature does not increase funding for the judicial system in 2014, there could be furloughs lasting 7 weeks in 2015. He also reported that the Christmas party for the Sheriff's Office was held last weekend and 122 people attended.
11. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that the date of the annual township dinner has not yet been set. He also reported that he attended a 1 ½ day course on bonded surface roads.
12. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that 360 Energy Engineers are waiting for a subcontracted company to drill a test well. They will then make a presentation to the Commission on January 27, 2014. He also reported that the exterior door replacement project for the courthouse is continuing. There is a bid from a company in Wichita that has not yet been received. Money was budgeted for this project in the 2013 budget, so that money will be transferred to an equipment reserve fund so the project can continue in 2014.
13. Anthony informed the Commission that there is a annual PBC meeting scheduled for January 7 at 11:30 a.m. This will include the election of officers and a public hearing, a couple of other agenda items.

14. The website has been updated to deal with possible security issues and it will also be updated to be more user friendly for the departments. The logo will also be modernized if possible.
15. Anthony reported that year-end procedures are now in progress. The end of the year will be officially closed at the end of January in 2014 so the auditors can come in February.
16. The court trustee is in the process of completing a move to an office on the 2nd floor of the courthouse. Phone lines will have to be installed as soon as the exact location is known. .
17. Anthony informed the Commissioners that any mileage that they have accrued through the year needs to be turned in before the end of December.
18. One farm ground tenant near East Lake is refusing to pay. Since we have had difficulty with this tenant in the past, this agreement may need to be terminated. Someone has also called in regards to leasing a parcel north of Halstead.
19. Kim Rowley, Director of Parks, is working on getting a solid bid on laying a 2" water line at West Park. Westar has indicated that they would trench the line. It can hopefully be completed before the Boy Scout Jamboree to be held there on January 17 - 20, 2014.
20. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to close the courthouse at noon on Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve. Employees will receive an additional four hours of holiday pay. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$95,484.39 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m. for a period of 15 minutes. The Commissioners went to the Treasurer's Office to observe a commercial vehicle registration on the new system.

At 10:15 a.m. the scheduled meeting of the Harvey County PBC was called to order by Richard Denno, President. In addition to Mr. Denno, board members attending were Eugene Wendling, Commissioner Hague, Robert Nattier, and Tim Johnson.

The minutes of the October 21, 2013 PBC meeting were read and approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Eugene Wendling. Motion passed unanimously.

Anthony presented a memo from Suzanne Loomis, Newton City Engineer, detailing the bids received for the construction of Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport. The engineering estimate for the project is 1.7 million.

The meeting of the Board of Harvey County Commissioners was brought back into session at 10:20 a.m. to conduct a joint meeting. Suzanne detailed the low bid from Rod's Ditching for the Sanitary sewer project in the amount of \$11,715.00, and the low bid for the hangar, apron, and taxilane is

from Conco, Inc. in the amount of \$995,289.00. The complete project cost would be \$1,281,480.92. Eugene Wendling made a motion to award the sanitary sewer extension project to Rod's Ditching and the hangar construction project to Conco, Inc. Tim Johnson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

In addition to Suzanne, Lunda Asmani and Kevin Timmermeyer were also in attendance for the PBC meeting.

Robert Nattier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to accept the recommendation of the PBC to proceed with the construction of Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport and award the bid for the sanitary sewer extension to Rod's Ditching and the hangar construction project to Conco, Inc. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Eugene Wendling invited the Commissioner and staff to the Valentine's dinner to be held on February 8th at 5:00 p.m.

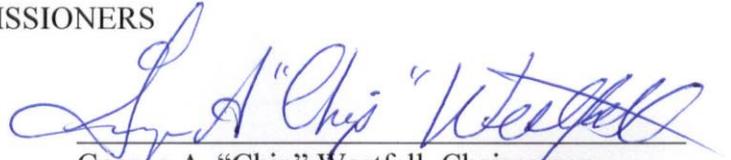
Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, and Gary Denny gave an after-action report/improvement plan of the emergency training exercise held on Thursday, November 21 in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room. The exercise was based on an ice storm. They detailed the strengths of the exercise in addition to some challenges.

The meeting was recessed at 11:10 a.m. so Commissioners could attend a Quad County meeting at AGCO in Hesston.

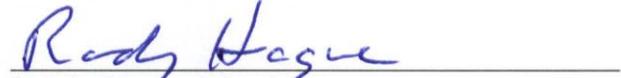
At 2:25 p.m. the Commission re-convened to have a work session regarding changes in courthouse security as of January 1, 2014. Discussion was held regarding concealed carry laws for both the public and employees. Changes in the employee personnel policy were discussed with regard to concealed carry both in the courthouse, on the 2nd floor where the courts are located, and county vehicles. Anthony presented three options for the Commissioners to review before a final decision is made.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Ron Krehbiel, Member


Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

