

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

**November 4, 2013**

Chairman Westfall called the regular meeting of the Board of Harvey County Commissioners to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting. All three Commissioners were present.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Hague commented that the KAC meeting held last week in Wichita was very interesting and informative.
2. Chairman Westfall gave a brief overview of some of the KAC sessions and discussions including depletion of the Oil and Gas Valuation Depletion Fund, the lack of funding for the Highway Fund, and the new laws regarding concealed carry in public buildings.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. There will be a Council of Governments meeting held on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at the Breadbasket.
2. A Tax Foreclosure Sale will be held in the Courthouse Community Room on November 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the October 28 Commission meeting and the November 1 special meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Hague made a motion to authorize the appointment of Brenda Lee and Dave Reimer to the Prairie View Advisory Board and authorize the Chairman to sign the appointment. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. John Waltner informed the Commissioners that he, Anthony Swartzendruber, Jim Meier, and Roy Patton will meet with two representatives from Poe and Associates Engineering on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss the transition to a different engineering firm and make a determination of how the projects that are currently in process will continue.
3. John informed the Commissioners that an approved, signed copy of the inter-local agreement for the community hangar project at the Newton City/County Airport has been received from the Kansas Attorney General.
4. The investment grade audit to be completed by 360 Energy Engineers will begin on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
5. John requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues be added to the agenda prior to the adjournment of the meeting.
6. Sheriff T. Walton gave a report on the happenings over the past week which included the arrest of a person for driving on a revoked license that refused to book in and then gave the wrong name when he finally did book in. The judge eventually

- gave a “no bond” order. A Reno County woman committed suicide in Harvey County, and early Saturday morning the Emergency Response Team was called in to work a stabbing and stand-off in the City of Newton. The Sheriff’s Department also worked a drunken melee in Burrton on Saturday night and there were 4 deer versus vehicle accidents that occurred in the past week. Discussion was held regarding courthouse security in light of the new law allowing concealed carry in public buildings unless there are metal detectors and a uniformed guard at the entrances.
7. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, requested permission to purchase a flex arm that attaches to a mower deck that is pulled with a tractor. The flex arm allows the operator to operate the deck from the tractor and maneuver around obstacles in the ditches while mowing. The attachment, which is a 2005 demo model, is being sold by Sellers Equipment and has been priced at \$8,000. The flex arm sells new for over \$19,000. The Commission watched a short video of the flex arm during actual mowing. There is capital improvement funding in the 2013 budget that could be used for the purchase. The Commissioners stated that, if the financing or funding could be worked out, to proceed in the purchase of the equipment. The agreement with AGCO to test a tractor for them will continue at this point. Jim also reported that a farmer damaged a bridge on NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street between Mission and Hoover Road.
  8. Byron Warta reported that the hangar project is progressing at the airport. He also reported that two basin advisory committees met last Monday and heard presentations from the City of Wichita Water Department and the City of El Dorado. They also discussed the Governor’s water plan.
  9. Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, reported that the new walking floor trailer is now in use. The two trailers that were being used before the new trailer was received are now being decommissioned. Part of the floor on one of the trailers will be installed in the other trailer which will then be used to transfer compost from one area of the landfill to another. The other trailer will then be sold for scrap. Roy found that DCS Automotive Corp in Wichita will pay \$46 to \$52 per ton for scrap aluminum. He also reported that the C & D landfill is filling up on the south end. The Solid Waste Department has one employee that is on Work Comp leave.
  10. Anthony Swartzendruber continues to work on finding vendors to replace the exterior doors on the courthouse. Rather than providing bid specifications, he has found that it is better to request that a company make a proposal detailing how they would replace the doors and what the cost would be.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

Tom Cowan attended the meeting to speak with the Commissioners about the speed study that was presented to the Commission last week. The Commission voted to approve the recommendations of the study and post 35 mph speed limit signs on SW 48<sup>th</sup> Street from Spencer to ½ mile west of Kansas Ave. Mr. Cowan asked if the Commissioners had actually driven down the road. All of the Commissioners have driven the road, 2 very recently. Mr. Cowan contended that there is very little traffic that actually travels over 45 mph and he believes that lowering it to 35mph is excessive. This is a low maintenance road sign would now read 35 mph. Part of this road is a low maintenance road where there are no houses and he does not agree that it needs to be signed at 35 mph. Chairman Westfall

explained that there are laws that require speed limit signage at certain distances. Mr. Cowan made a formal request then that the low maintenance portion of the road running a mile west of the half mile marker be brought up to the same standard as the portion of the road that runs in front of the houses. Jim Meier stated that the speed study took the condition of the road into account and the recommendations were based on the results of the study. Mr. Cowan built a house along 48<sup>th</sup> Street and he said the appraised value continues to increase. He suggested that the value of his home should be lowered because of the condition of the road. Jimmie Senn stated that there were speed limit signs of 45 mph on the road many years ago. The signs were knocked down at some point and then eventually disappeared. Chairman Westfall stated that the County Commission does not have control over property appraisals. The County Appraiser values the properties according to state appraisal guidelines. Road conditions or speed limit changes do not affect an appraisal. The petition requesting the traffic study was to obtain information on how fast the traffic on the road was traveling, what the condition of the road is, and recommended speed limits. Mr. Cowan also registered a complaint about the railroad crossing on SW 48<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that the crossing is many times blocked for longer times than are allowed by law. He asked that the County do whatever necessary to force the railroad to abide by the laws. Sheriff T. Walton said that tickets have been written to the railroad in the past but were not effective. In addition to Mr. Cowan and Jimmie Senn, Donna Scheckler and Barbara Calloway, also residents on SW 48<sup>th</sup> Street, attended the meeting. Chairman Westfall thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that the condition of the road is a township issue and encouraged the residents to go to their township board to request more maintenance on the road. He said there is no reason at this time to change the decision of the Commissioners regarding the recommendations of the traffic study.

Jessie Kaye, Executive Director of Prairie View, and Matt Schmidt, Director of Health Ministries, gave a presentation requesting that Harvey County and the City of Newton each give added support of \$25,000 to the collaboration between Prairie View, Health Ministries, and the Harvey County Health Department. A building on South Pine Street has been purchased to house this collaboration for a community health center. However, the estimated cost of renovations is \$392,048 and to date, more than \$220,000 has been raised. The Mabee Foundation has made available a grant of \$75,000 providing matching funds are obtained. The deadline for this grant is January 2, 2014. Both Matt and Jessie explained the importance of the project and the economic impact and service impact on the community. The health center would serve more than 20,000 people per year with medical, mental, and dental services. The coordination would provide a greater degree of efficiency and eliminate difficulties for people that seek more than one of the provided services. Commissioner Hague stated that he will abstain from the vote for this issue because his personal business could possibly be involved in the remodeling project. Commissioner Krehbiel said that this concerns him because other groups who have asked for funding have been turned down, but that he is supportive of the project. John stated that there is money that is budgeted in the economic development fund that can be used in extraordinary circumstances such as this. Byron Warta and Ray Penner, representatives of the EDC, attended the meeting for the presentation. Chairman Westfall asked how the Affordable Care Act is projected to affect the patient load of the health center. Matt explained that there is a significant gap of population that will not qualify for the coverage because of their level of poverty, 100 to 400% below poverty level. Jessie stated that the type and continuity of care provided by the center will draw people to choose to remain with the center for

their healthcare. Chairman Westfall asked for clarification on how the money will actually be spent. Jessie said that the money will not be divided between the three entities involved but will instead go into a fund for the renovation of the building. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the \$25,000 grant match to the Integrated Community Health Collaboration Pine Street Renovation Project. Chairman Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed on a vote of two ayes and one abstention by Commissioner Hague.

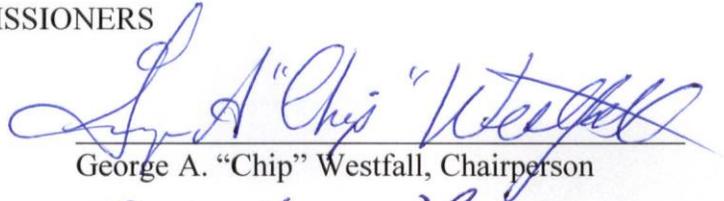
Warrant checks in the amount of \$432,517.64 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

At 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 12:30 p.m. with no action being taken.

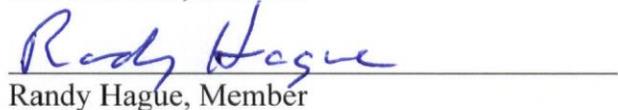
Chairman Westfall suggested that job requirement descriptions for some of the employee positions be reviewed to be able to use job experience in place of some of the education requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

