

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 15, 2014

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 15, 2014 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Westfall received compliments on the road work that is being done on S East Lake Road and SE 36th Street.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he has received positive comments on the proposed mole eradication plan at West Park.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Interviews for the Director of the Noxious Weed Department will be held on Tuesday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m.
2. There will be a joint City/County work session held on Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Fire Station #3 on South Kansas Avenue.

Minutes of the December 8, 2015 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner informed the Commissioners that three people will be interviewed for the position of the Director of the Noxious Weed Department.
2. Regional prioritization will be the topic of discussion at the joint City/County Work Session to be held on Tuesday, December 16. Representatives of the REAP Organization, Keith Lawing, Kelly Bergeron, and Tim Norton will attend and participate in the discussion. The Commissioners also received a copy of the summary of the completed Prosperity Plan. The full detailed plan is available on the REAP website.
3. John reported that Randall Allen, Director of the KAC, was hospitalized over the weekend for a serious health condition.
4. John reported that the Newton City-County Airport Runway 17-35 reconstruction project earned the Silver Award in the "Reliever & General Aviation Airports" category at the American Concrete Pavement Association's annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. HNTB Corporation, the engineering firm that worked on the project nominated the project for the award.
5. The EDC is planning to take a small group of about 15 people to tour the Logistics Park located in Kansas City on January 8. John said that because the number of people that can go is limited, if any of the Commissioners can go, reservations need to be made as soon as possible.
6. John gave the Commissioners information regarding CD Custom Enterprises, LLC, who has requested a tax abatement that will be considered by the Newton City Commission at their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16. The EDC has

- reportedly been working on this project for some time. This is an existing business in the current industrial park that produces laser cut metal products. The business is seeking to add onto the existing facility, enabling them to add approximately five more employees.
7. Short discussion was held regarding filling the vacancy on the EDC Board. John requested that names of people who are interested in serving on this Board be submitted to him so a list of recommended candidates can be assembled. The appointment will be made in early January.
 8. Matt Schmidt, Executive Director of the Health Ministries Clinic, has announced that Dr. Brett Nedich, DO, has accepted the position of Medical Director at the Health Ministries Clinic. Dr. Nedich will begin serving in that position on Monday, January 5.
 9. John reported that he, Kass Miller, and Carol Dilts met with representatives of the Boy Scouts to discuss the upcoming Trappers Rendezvous at West Park. One of their requests is to limit access to the west side of the Park from West Park Road. This would require hiring some reserve law enforcement personnel.
 10. John reported that the house at West Park will soon be advertised as “for rent.”
 11. Dawn Warrington, RSVP Coordinator, introduced a project titled “A Drive from the Heart” to benefit the local Harvey County Homeless Shelter, Harvey County Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Victims, and the Veteran’s Home. Clothing, coats, blankets, toiletries, diapers, and toys will be collected from January 5 to January 30 and then dispensed on January 31.
 12. Gina Bell, Director of Planning and Zoning, gave a report on the completion of the requirements of the conditional use permit for the horse racing track south of Halstead. Gina stated that all required permit applications have now been submitted and permits obtained. Holding tanks have now been installed for the hand-washing station. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the conditional use permit with all the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners effective July 1, 2014. The permit will need to be renewed every two years with the first date of renewal on July 1, 2016. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
 13. Gina reported that she has been talking to Verizon for several months about the cell tower that is located east of Sedgwick. The original conditional use permit was issued with the stipulation that natural plantings be installed around the perimeter of the fence as a cover at the base of the tower. Verizon has planted several times and the plantings subsequently died. They also tried to drill a well there and were not successful in obtaining enough water to keep the plants alive. They have requested permission to install artificial greenery around the fence as a short term solution while they determine how to keep live plantings from dying. The Commissioners agreed that this would be satisfactory.
 14. Byron Warta reported that there will be a very important water meeting held on Monday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Wichita. Representatives will be appointed to help navigate the Governor’s 50-year water plan and redo BAC values.
 15. Sheriff T Walton presented the Commissioners with information on the pros and cons of vehicle rotation in the Sheriff’s Department. The information suggests that for safety issues and cost considerations, vehicles should be rotated out at 75,000 miles.

16. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that the heat pump installation in the basement of the courthouse is now complete and ready to go online.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$79,887.76 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, and Gary Denny, Coordinator for a Homeland Security Exercise, reviewed the After-Action Report/Improvement Plan for the “Invisible Fire” functional exercise held on October 22, 2014. The exercise simulated a foreign animal disease outbreak and was conducted simultaneously at locations in Butler, Harvey, Reno, Sedgwick, Sumner, and McPherson Counties. Gary reviewed the objectives of the exercise and the strengths and weaknesses which were identified following the completion of the exercise. Gary stated that he believes that if a tabletop exercise is held prior to the functional exercise, many of the items listed for improvement could have been identified and corrected before the functional exercise was held.

Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, reported on the road conditions on SE 36th and South East Lake Road and the process the crews are using to improve those roads following the rainfall received last week through the weekend. They hauled many tons of rock to this area and have been rebuilding the road base and rebuilding the crown on the road. Jim estimated the cost of the repair is just under \$12,000 per mile. Commissioner Westfall reported that he has heard from a couple of citizens who appreciated the work being done there. Because so many of the roads in the county have lost their crown, they are holding water. Keith Ayotte, Engineer with PEC, Inc., explained that most people drive in the middle of non-hard surfaced rural roads, rather than on each side. This is what causes the deterioration of the crown. Kevin Schmidt, Road and Bridge Supervisor, explained what happens when you just add rock to the road and how roads should be rebuilt. It tends to slide off when a clay based road gets wet. When trying to repair a road and re-establish the crown, the road has to be somewhat wet in order to achieve the necessary compaction and it takes more than one pass of compacting. Steve Brackeen, a resident in the affected portion of the county said that he thinks the Road and Bridge crews have done a great job. It was noted that Harvey County is not the only county struggling with these types of issues on sand and gravel roads.

Don Gruver, Director of Communications, introduced John Martin and Aaron Corkett, representatives of the Motorola Company, who attended the meeting to answer questions about the proposed Lease-Purchase Agreement for 800 MHz radio equipment being lease purchased from the Motorola Company. Anthony Swartzendruber explained that Kevin Cowan, bond counsel, has requested that a section of the agreement be amended and the Motorola Finance Department has agreed to make some alterations to the contract. Don explained the Communications System Agreement and the Lease-Purchase Agreement. Harvey County will be able to take advantage of some significant discounts if the equipment is ordered this week. Counselor Nye pointed out that this purchase did not go through the normal bid process because Motorola is a sole source vendor for the equipment. This system will match what the State of Kansas has and Harvey County will be able to connect with it. Counselor Nye also stated that the County is aware and anticipates that this purchase may mean a mill levy increase of approximately 1.56 mills. The software is good for the life of the equipment. Anthony reviewed the payment schedule which includes 10% of the project to be billed in December and paid in January. In addition the console equipment would likely be shipped upon receipt of the order and payment for that would also be due in January. The January payments would total approximately \$870,000. The next

payment of \$1,500,000 would be due in April, with the remaining amount of the contract due in September and October. Commissioner Westfall made a motion for Harvey County Commission to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the purchase and lease of radio equipment for the 800 MHz system, beginning with an effect to the 2016 budget in the amount of \$424,209 or the equivalent of 1.56 mills. The total amount of the contract is \$3,866,737.61, a portion of which will be paid through bond proceeds and portions will be paid annually. We are purchasing sole source equipment that meets the requirements of the State of Kansas Contract for this type of radio system. It is important to the public safety of Harvey County, its persons, and specifically its volunteer fire, EMS, and police officers, and the general public. Upon completion of the legalities of the agreement by the attorneys, authorization is given to the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Newton Fire Chief, Mark Willis and Hesston Fire Chief Doug Schroeder expressed their appreciation for the County's forward thinking on this most important project.

The Commission recessed at 11:30 a.m. to attend the Quad County meeting at the Airport.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson



Randy Hague, Member



George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:



Rick Piepho, County Clerk

