

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

**March 10, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 10, 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 reported that he attended the REAP meeting held at McKinley School last Friday. He reported that WSU will be doing a study on counties to determine what percent of the county workforce commutes outside the county. In Sedgwick County 35% of the workforce commutes to another county.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

No additional items were added to the calendar.

Minutes of the March 3, 2014 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Willis Heck, Harvey County representative to the Highway 50 Organization, gave an update on what was discussed at the recent meeting of the organization and a meeting with Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation, Mike King. Willis presented a proposal to extend the four-lane from Emporia to Newton and the organization is supportive of that. Secretary King was interested in gathering more information on the proposal. One thing that could affect the proposal is a task force that will study the impact of truck freight on roads. All T-Works projects in progress by the State are on schedule. KDOT contributed 150 million dollars to the 2014 state budget and an additional contribution is planned for 2015. Willis requested that he and the Commissioners meet with the Commissioners from Lyon, Chase, and Marion Counties to explain the proposal and gather more information. John suggested that the KCCA meeting on May 6,7, and 8th would be an opportune time to meet. Willis will also contact the Highway 50 representatives from those counties.
2. John Waltner and Kass Miller, Park Ranger, had a conference call with Karen Smith and Bob Postlethwaite of Westar last Friday. Westar's Green Team will trench an additional water line at West Park. This should be done before the middle of April.
3. Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, was able to obtain an electronic report on the shutdown of the used grinder as reported in last week's minutes. After examination of the report, he feels that this is a good used machine and has made an offer to the broker of the asking price with the condition that it be delivered to Harvey County and tested here. No word has been received yet from the broker.
4. John reported that there is a substitute for HB 2614 before the Legislature now that, if passed in its present form, could have a financial impact on counties. In case of a protested valuation, if a licensed appraisal is performed, the property will

- automatically be appraised at that value unless the County would hire an outside licensed appraiser for an additional appraisal. Commissioner Westfall stated that there is another bill that deals with fee charges that could be a further hit for the Register of Deeds Office.
5. County Government Day is Tuesday, March 18 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Registration is required by March 12.
  6. The Commissioners received a letter from Carl Eyman, Loss Prevention Representative from KWORCC, stating that following a loss prevention analysis, they have no recommendations for further county action and commended the county on its loss prevention activities.
  7. Jeremy Hill gave a presentation at the REAP Board meeting last Friday that is a very good explanation of the REAP organization. John will schedule the presentation to be shown at a future Commission meeting.
  8. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, presented a corrected copy of by-law changes for the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the changes and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  9. John reported that Margaret Hermstein, Register of Deeds, serves with the State Historical Records Advisory Board, which is a group that tries to educate people who work with historical records and archival preservation.
  10. Kim Rowley, Director of Parks, presented an Invitation to Bidders for the purchase of fish for two stockings at both East Lake and West Park. Kim has met with Jessica Mounts, the head of Fisheries at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. She has recommended that supplemental stockings be done only twice per year as opposed to four, and has suggested the stockings be done around Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. She also suggested that for the health of the waterway, the amount of fish be reduced and that we stock only with catfish. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the invitation to bidders as presented and give Kim the authority to send the invitations. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  11. Byron Warta reported that the foundation for the hangar being constructed at the airport is scheduled to be poured next week. He also reported that a meeting of the Little Arkansas River Basin meeting was held in Newton last week. Tracy Streeter gave a presentation on the 50 year vision that will be a part of the five year water plan that the Division of Water Resources puts together every five years. There was also discussion held at the meeting about the Equus Beds. There are some areas that are not permitting any new wells because the beds are not regenerating. Pumpers have also agreed to reduce the amount of water they pump.
  12. Gina Bell, Director of Planning and Zoning, reported that there was a very contentious meeting of the Planning Commission held last week where Ann Sperry was granted a variance to build on less than 40 acres.
  13. Anthony reported that the County has received the proceeds of the bond for the construction of a Community Hangar at the airport.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$109,868.52 and one hand-written check in the amount of \$9,500 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Counselor Greg Nye joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

John Allen, Bruce Cowan, Tom Cowan, Gerald Busenitz, Joel Busenitz, and Leo Stahly attended the meeting to protest the new speed limit signs along a portion of SW 48<sup>th</sup> Street. Following a traffic study done because of a petition signed by some of the residents there, the speed limit was reduced from 55 mph to 35 mph. The main complaint was how far from the housing area the speed limit signs were placed. Discussion was held on the history of the road and speed limit signage. It was suggested that the County was not maintaining the road properly. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, said the road is not the responsibility of the county, it is a township maintained road. Leo Stahly, Darlington Township Clerk, said the road has not been maintained because the township has run out of money. John Waltner suggested that there might be some road impact fee monies that could be used by the township for road maintenance along that road. Commissioner Hague suggested that maybe some sort of compromise could be reached. John stated that the changes were made as a result of the traffic study and the signage was placed according to recommendation. Counselor Greg Nye said changing the signage could present a liability issue for the county. The commissioners will further review the situation and then it will be an agenda item where both sides of the situation can be heard.

J.R. Hatfield, Halstead City Administrator, gave a presentation introducing an incentive program encouraging people to live, work, and bring their kids to Halstead. The program is titled "Discover Halstead." The Discover Halstead group includes the City, USD #440, and the Chamber of Commerce Oversight Committee. Dennis Travis, City Councilman, Bill Charlsen, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Cory Harrington, President of the USD #440 School Board, also attended the meeting. The program includes a marketing campaign to draw people from outside the county and state to the City of Halstead and an incentive package that is paid out in "Halstead Bucks." They requested an amount of \$2,500 from the county to help fund the marketing campaign and an amount of \$5,000 that would fund the bucks for someone moving from outside the county. There will be a kickoff held at the Halstead Health Museum on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

Lynnette Redington, Health Department Director presented a grant application for an Aid to Local Grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This grant is applied for annually and includes amounts for childcare licensing, chronic disease risk reduction, maternal and child health, immunization action, and emergency preparedness. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the application and Commissioner Hague seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Lynnette reported that they have chosen someone to serve as the director of nursing, and providing they meet pre-employment requirements, they will begin work this week. She also reported that they have partnered with Newton Medical Center to obtain KidsFund grant funds of \$5,000 for infant car seats. They are also applying for a Healthy Communities Grant of \$25,000 per year for three years and a Healthy Living Grant for \$100,000 a year for two years.

Jim Meier and Keith Ayotte from MKEC presented a proposal for MKEC to perform the biennial bridge inspection for the county. There are 280 structures to be inspected and the proposed cost is \$135 per structure, not to exceed \$40,800. In 2010, the cost was \$116 per structure and in 2012 the cost was \$125 per structure. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the biennial bridge inspection by MKEC, not to exceed \$40,800. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Jim Meier presented a request to purchase a used skid steer loader. He explained that the loader currently being used is not tall enough to clear the new dump beds. Jim proposed to cancel the purchase of a belly dump trailer, as listed on the CIP, and purchase the skid steer loader instead. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to amend the CIP and purchase a used 2012 JCB skid steer loader for \$34,000. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 12:00 noon the commissioners attended the EMPAC informational meeting.

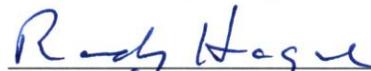
At 1:32 p.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 45 minutes to consult with the County Counselor and receive information in connection with said consultation for the reason that said information to be received and said consultation concerns sensitive legal issues and is privileged and confidential. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the meeting were members of the EDC board including Dennis Lafevre, Byron Warta, Ray Penner, Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Allen Schrag, and Jaci Reimer; Harvey County Staff John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. At 2:10 p.m. further privilege consultation continued with the County Counselor without the presence of the EDC Board. Executive session ended at 2:16 p.m. with no action being taken.

Further discussion was held regarding funding for the EDC.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

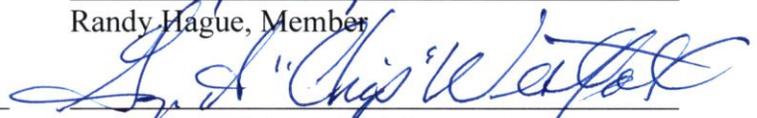
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson

  
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Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

  
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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

