

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

**May 19, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 19, 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 was contacted by two officers of Macon Township regarding the possibility of surrendering SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street between Meridian and Cow Palace Road. This is a gravel road that carries much higher traffic loads than most roads of this type. Half of the road is within the city limits. They are requesting information on what the procedure is to transfer the maintenance of this road. They also requested that the Road & Bridge Department look at the possibility of putting a culvert bridge in place on West Street one-half mile south of SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street. There is a drainage problem in that area.
2. Commissioner Westfall was contacted by the Eicher family who owns 39.9 acres of land on the west side of East Lake Road adjacent to the Lake. They would like to have an easement to build a small cabin on the property.
3. Chairman Krehbiel was appreciative of the people who attended the ABI groundbreaking at the Newton City/County Airport last Thursday. There were approximately 80 people that attended.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner will make reservations for the three commissioners and their spouses to attend the annual EDC meeting and dinner to be held at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains on May 29 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. John has made reservations for all three Commissioners to attend the REAP annual Water Conference to be held at the Meridian Center on May 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3. There will be an LEPC meeting held in the training room of the Law Enforcement Center on June 11 at 9:00 a.m.
4. The NIMS training will be held Wednesday, May 21 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Law Enforcement Center training room.

Minutes of the May 12, 2014 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that following a discussion with the interview team, the team agreed to offer the position of Communications Director to Don Gruver. Don has agreed to accept the position. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to appoint Don Gruver to the position of Director of 911 Communications, with compensation according to Range 25, Step 1 of the Employee Salary Plan. The annual compensation for the position will be \$56,056. Commissioner Hague seconded the

- motion and it was passed unanimously. Commissioner Hague expressed concern that the public knew who the job was offered to before the Commission actually took action on what was discussed in executive session. John assured him that it did not come from any of the employees in the Communications Department. John also reported that he and Don met with Ed Ger last week regarding possible funding assistance from KDOT for the 800 MHz radio project. KDOT Secretary, Mike King, would like to collaborate on the project.
2. The Westar Green team was in Harvey County last Thursday and Friday where they trenched the new water line at West Park. At the Chamber Breakfast last Friday, Commissioner Westfall publicly recognized Karen Smith, Westar Energy Representative, and her team for their work at West Park.
  3. John, Linda Kientz, Jennifer Elliott, and Lisa Bartel met with Cindy Clough to discuss the aggregate report of the employee biometric health screening. Lisa will address the Commission at a later date about strategies to improve the results.
  4. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2014-14**, stating that certain equipment is no longer required for use by the county and is authorized to be sold. A 2002 Ford Diamond Econoline E450, currently used by the Transportation Department as a back-up vehicle, will be sold on the Purple Wave Auction Site. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  5. Kim Rowley, Director of Parks, reported that West Park has been busy with school children attending programs there.
  6. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, reported that several signs around the county were vandalized or destroyed over the weekend. So far, ten locations have been identified as having damage. Jim also reported that MKEC Engineering Firm has completed all the field work on the bridge inspections. The Road and Bridge crews are patching on Dutch Avenue west of Hesston and crack sealing on NE 60<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held about the recent closing of a bridge on NW 60<sup>th</sup>. It is still unknown whether there is a way to repair it. The Commissioners also discussed bridge maintenance and what the townships are responsible for and what the county is responsible to maintain.
  7. Sheriff T. Walton reported that his department had a very busy weekend. The Communications Department received a report of a 24 year-old female that was very upset over a court ruling and, while in possession of a firearm, was threatening a Judge and some courthouse staff members. Sheriff Walton is concerned that the security in the courthouse is not adequate.
  8. Byron Warta reported that work is progressing on the hangar at the airport. He will be attending the Kansas Water Authority meeting on Thursday and Friday.
  9. Don Gruver, Director of Communications, reported that work continues on the 800 MHz radio project. They continue to try to find towers to co-locate equipment on.
  10. Joyce Truskett, County Clerk, reported that there will be a special question election held for USD #460 to raise the Local Option Budget by 1%. The election will be a mail-ballot election and will conclude on June 24, 2014.
  11. Dawn Warrington, RSVP Coordinator, presented a plaque to John Waltner and the Commissioners, from the National Guard Adjutant General in appreciation of their

support for the project to send boxes to military members serving overseas. The project was very successful and was greatly appreciated by the recipients.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

Terry Jacobs reported that he continues to work on research and development of a magnet that attaches behind the blade of a road grader. The magnet picks up an average one pound per mile of metal pieces, car parts, screws and bolts, etc. as the operator is grading the road. Mr. Jacobs is working on a way to reverse the polarity on the magnet so it will be easier to clean the debris off of it. There are two machine shops working on the development of this system. The magnets will be tested on different road graders in three townships. The cost of this type of magnet is estimated at \$7,500. Craig Sooter also attended and answered questions about how the magnet works.

Mr. Jacobs also talked about the legislation that was proposed in an attempt to curb metal thefts out in the county. The legislature did not pass the bill in part because of the number of small metal scrap dealers. Commissioner Hague suggested that the proposed fee to scrap dealers be adjusted to account for the amount of scrap they process. Mr. Jacobs will be circulating a petition to try to get some legislation passed next year.

Scott Eckert, Susan Jackson, Ann Religa, and Ryan Flaming, Extension Agents, each gave the Commissioners an update on the Extension office. Scott reported that there are 45 master garden volunteers who donated 2,500 hours of volunteer time in 2013. This is a dollar value of \$46,125. The Giving Garden produced 3,300 pounds of fresh produce last year. The Home and Garden Show had attendance of 450 this spring. Other projects include public educational programs, the County Fair, and the Library Garden Tour.

Susan Jackson gave a report on the family nutrition program. They received a grant from the Department of Family and Children in the amount of \$36,544 which pays for wages for a program assistant and supplies. They are developing programs for low income audiences at Harvey County elementary schools and adult classes at the Early Education Center. They are also working with the Salvation Army and the Health Department. The SCHICK Program runs from October 16 to December 7. This program has 6 volunteers and one partner who provide senior health insurance counseling for Kansans. This saved 673 medicare beneficiaries a total of \$279,288 during the annual enrollment period. Susan also reported that 51 teams of six members each participated in Walk Kansas, which encourages team members to walk collectively 423 minutes per week. Ryan reported that he has been holding agriculture meetings including soybean school, sorghum school, no-till discussion groups, grazing management meetings, Harvey County Livestock Association meetings, tillage surveys, partnership meetings, one-on-one visits with producers, field and pasture visits, daily calls, and helping with 4-H livestock shows. Discussions have also been held about when to burn for the most effective management.

Ann Religa reported that there are changes to the 4-H Volunteer Review Training. Background checks are now required and there are additional fees to cover this cost. She also reported that they have completed air rifle, and BB gun programs in the Shooting Sports Program. The Archery Program will begin tomorrow night. They have received another NRA grant for 2014. They also held classes for the state mandated Tractor Safety Program for youths 14 years of age. The Family 4-H Fun Night is held every year. This is a healthy and recreation evening for 4-H families. They

have healthy snacks and have access to the pool and gym at the Newton Rec Center.

Larry Sharp, KCAMP Insurance Representative, updated the Commissioners on property, casualty, and liability insurance for the County. The average loss ratio for counties is about 60%. Harvey County's loss ratio for 2013 was about 70%. David Luke is the new administrator of KCAMP following the retirement of Tom Job. He spoke of several different services available including attorney assist, Roads Scholar, Defensive Driving Training, Risk avoidance, and cyber liability coverage. He suggested that the county budget for an increase of about 2 to 3.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$111,284.91 and hand-written checks in the amount of \$775.00 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

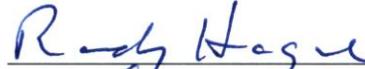
Counselor Greg Nye reported that the City of Newton approved the purchase of acreage as required by the FAA at the end of the runway at the Newton City/County Airport. The Commissioners signed the document also.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson



\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

