

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

**October 6, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on October 6, 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 on the KDOT meeting that he and John attended last week where they advocated for making Highway 50 a four lane from Newton to Emporia. There are several improvements to Highway 50 that have already begun, but nothing much east of Newton. There was some talk of the Logistics Park with regard to possibly locating a transload station there. KDOT has indicated that they want to help build these stations in in different locations around the state.
2. The Commission congratulated Ashley Bergner, Reporter for the Newton Kansan, for being selected as the Newton Kansan "Woman of the Year."

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Safe House Holiday Gala will be held at the Meridian Center on November 7 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The employee picnic will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Volunteer Hall at East Lake.

Minutes of the September 29, 2014 Commission meeting were corrected and approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that the repair of the bridge on NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street near West Park has been completed with the exception of backfilling against the west abutment. Commissioner Westfall suggested that the county may need to possibly put some kind of a structure in the river flow above the bridge to catch the drift before it reaches that bridge. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, said caution needs to be used if something is built that could cause an obstruction in the river. Phil Schmidt is planning to clean the debris from around the bridge sometime this week.
2. John reported that the Fair Board has asked permission to allow another company to conduct an additional Demolition Derby in two weeks. The insurance for the event will be paid by Markley Demolition Inc. of Abilene. The Commission authorized Administration staff and Counselor Greg Nye to work out the details for the insurance.
3. John informed the Commission that there will be some changes in the employee wellness program for the year 2015. Those employees who wish to receive credit for not using tobacco will be required to take a test to verify that they are tobacco free. The details of this will be explained at the employee meetings to be held on Columbus Day.

4. IMPAC will be conducting a supervisor training class on Tuesday, October 7 in the Community Room from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
5. Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, gave the Commission an update of the county quarantine and isolation orders. There was a man that flew from Africa to Dallas, TX in the last week that has been diagnosed with Ebola. All of our policies are in the process of being updated according to guidance from the State of Kansas Infectious Disease Control. The Health Department has reviewed all procedures with Newton Medical Center including personal protection wear and the disposal of them after use. They are working diligently to make sure all procedures and cautions are in place.
6. The KAC Conference will be held next month. Commissioner Westfall was appointed as the KCAMP voting delegate and Joyce Truskett, County Clerk, was appointed as the alternate.
7. Emergency Management will conduct a training exercise on Thursday, October 9, at the Emergency Operations Center. The training will deal with ice storms.
8. Commissioners received a copy of the agreement with the Indigent Defense Panel to provide legal services for indigents in the year 2014. There are no changes to the contract and the way the panel is set up seems to be working very well. The County provides funding of \$145,000 per year, which is divided between the participating attorneys. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
9. Jim Meier presented a proposed Invitation to Bidders to purchase a new 11' reversible snow plow and flat plate truck mount. The amount budgeted for this item is \$5,000, but the cost is now estimated at \$11,500. The current plow has been damaged and one of the features of a new plow would be the ability of one person to hook it up to the truck. The Department is under budget on several other pieces of equipment that was purchased this year, so there is money to purchase the blade. A short discussion was held about the road materials budget which is over budget. Jim is scheduled to meet with Anthony Swartzendruber to discuss this issue tomorrow. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to authorize the invitation to bidders. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
10. Debra Gonzalez Hawk, Driver's License Office Employee, attended the meeting and was recognized for her service to the County. She has resigned her position, where she has received many compliments for her service in her position. She thanked the Commissioners for being able to work for the County.
11. Jim Meier reported that the deck pour on the Burmac Bridge is scheduled for Thursday. He also reported that they are going to be doing some patching on North Ridge Road.
12. Sheriff T. Walton reported that they had a very busy week last week beginning with the bomb threat on Monday. Sheriff's deputies took calls for the Newton Police Department while their officers investigated the bomb threat. The week continued to get worse.
13. Byron reported that the water meeting was well attended. They had a fantastic weekend with the EAA fly-in and the breakfast was well attended. There were several activities for youth.

14. Kass Miller, Parks Director, reported that there have been two or three different scout troops doing several work projects at the parks. Parks employees are doing some burning, digging up a non-functioning fire hydrant, and working on the face of the dam.
15. Dawn Warrington updated the Commission on the clean up project that she has organized for RSVP. Everything they needed for the project, including food for the volunteers, has been donated. Volunteers will meet at the 4-H building at 9:30 on October 11 for instructions and then clean-up at the parks will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at 12:00 p.m., followed by lunch. The State RSVP office is very impressed by this project in Harvey County and this will be featured in the national RSVP magazine.
16. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that he is working on the renewal for KCAMP liability insurance. The KCAMP Executive Director will speak with the Commissioners at the meeting on October 20. Since our loss ratio has improved, the County now qualifies for the rate stabilization program. Anthony also reported that representatives from ING will not be at the employee meeting next Monday as they have been in past years because the State of Kansas awarded the deferred compensation contract to a different company. He also gave a construction update on the energy upgrade. The final asbestos removal was performed last weekend, the well-drilling south of the sidewalk is now complete, and the lighting in the Law Enforcement Center is complete. Ductwork has begun in the basement of the courthouse and plumbing will begin next week in the Law Enforcement Center.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

Larry Williams, Halstead resident, spoke to the Commission about the terrible condition of Halstead Road from Halstead to the Sedgwick County line. He talked to the Commissioners in May and was told it was scheduled to be repaired in a couple of weeks, then was told by Jim Meier that the repair would not be done until the middle of July. The first part of September, crews began work on the repair of the road, but only repaired approximately 1¼ miles and then stopped. Mr. Williams stated that the community and community leaders believed that there was going to be no further repair because there was no communication. John Waltner corrected that and told them that the Road and Bridge Department were going get back to complete the repair. Mr. Williams said this is a very important arterial road and asked why it is being ignored. He suggested that the County immediately put the repairs out for bid and allow a contractor to take care of it. Jim Meier responded that the County had done over \$2,000,000 in repairs for the Halstead area in the last year. He stated that if the road is to be repaired properly that the Road & Bridge Department needs to be allowed to complete the repair.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$637,280.95 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:07 a.m. Leroy Koehn, Newton City Mayor, and Chairman Ron Krehbiel called the joint City/County meeting to order. Bob Myers, Newton City Attorney, reviewed the contract with Palomino Oil Company to lease the new Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport, with the intent to eventually purchase it. Since the hangar was purchased with bond funds, they are not redeemable until August of 2020. Palomino will have the option to purchase the hangar at that time. Provisions of the lease were reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to enter into the lease

agreement with Palomino Oil and allow negotiation with the City Manager and County Administrator. Newton City Commissioner Thiessen made a motion to approve the lease agreement and Commissioner Nickel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The joint meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Anthony Swartzendruber reviewed the third quarter financial report. General fund revenues are at 87.6% and expenditures are at 67.5% of budgeted amounts. Other budgeted funds were reviewed and discussed. The Special Highway Fund was discussed with regard to what expenses have been paid from this fund and ones that have not yet been paid. There is an expected \$300,000 payment from the State of Kansas that is not yet showing in the fund. Anthony also reviewed the County Treasurer investments for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

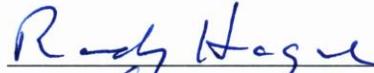
At 11:06 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 24 minutes to discuss personnel issues and attorney client privilege. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:30 a.m. with no action being taken.

At 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned 11:45 a.m.

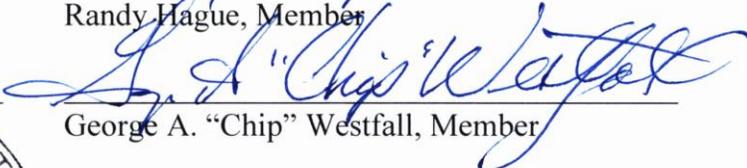
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

