

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 10, 2015

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on August 10, 2015 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Hague called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Westfall reported that there was an issue with a plugged sewer line at the fairgrounds last week due to grease being dumped down the drain by renters of the building. He stated that the line was dug up and a cleanout was installed.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel is scheduled to attend the Harvey/McPherson County Community Corrections meeting on Friday August 14 at noon in Judge Dickinson's chambers.

Minutes of the August 3 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner, Administrator, distributed copies of the revised proposed joint enactment regarding the composition and duties of the Newton City-County Airport Commission. The agreement includes changes requested at the joint Newton City/County meeting. The commissioners agreed to postpone taking action on the agreement.
2. John reported that the commissioners are invited to attend the Aviation Commission meeting on August 17 at 4:00 p.m. All elected officials and tenants are invited to discuss the proposed rezoning of all airport properties.
3. John stated that he has been invited by REAP to travel to Greenville, SC on October 7 thru 9. REAP occasionally schedules city to city visits to share information and ideas regarding economic development. All of the expenses for the trip will be paid by REAP. The commissioners agreed that John should accept the invitation.
4. John called attention to an article announcing that Excel Industries is opening a warehouse and distribution facility at the Logistics Park Kansas City (LPKC) in Edgerton Kansas. The article also stated that Excel expects continued growth of employment at its headquarters in Hesston during the next several years.
5. Kass Miller, Parks Director, reported that a limb fell at West Park and punctured a hole in the roof of an RV owned by a camp host. There were no injuries. He also stated that the KDHE tests confirmed the blue-green algae bloom at East Park. Even though the bloom is currently non-toxic, the lake will remain closed to human contact as a precaution.
6. John presented a Notification of Grant Award totaling \$49,811.00 for the 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant from the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation (KHRC) for the Harvey County DV/SA Task Force for the operation of the Safe House. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to accept the grant and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

7. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that he was contacted by law enforcement over the weekend about a missing piling on the bridge west of Ridge Rd. on SW 60th St. He stated that he visited the bridge and determined that a tree had knocked out one of the support pilings and that the bridge is temporarily closed, but they should be able to repair it.
8. Kass Miller reported that vandalism is increasing at both East Park and West Park along with damages from the use of ATV's.

The Public Hearing for consideration of the request by Budde Enterprises, Inc. to grant a tax exemption was opened at 9:45 a.m. Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Harvey County EDC Director, presented the Cost-Benefit analysis of the proposed 10 year 100% abatement for the expansion project. The report showed a 3 year payback and a benefit/cost ratio of 2.05:1 for the County. Caroline Budde, Budde Enterprises, Inc., President stated that the expansion project will add a 44,250 square foot building to their existing facility at cost of approximately 2.6 million dollars and they will add about 18 employees within 2 years. She stated that the expansion is necessary to continue and expand the in-house operation of their current railroad contract work. The company has long term contracts with BNSF and other major railroad companies. She stated that without this expansion the company would lose work to out-of-state competition. Commissioner Krehbiel stated that he was 100% in favor of this request. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2015-13**, declaring the intent to grant an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain property proposed to be improved, expanded and equipped by Budde Enterprises, Inc., a Kansas Corporation, for manufacturing purposes. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The budget hearing was closed at 10:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (continued):

9. Anthony Swartzendruber, Finance Director, reported that sales tax collections are down about 5% for the month, but year-to-date collections are still up more than 5%.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$99,716.19 and a hand-written check in the amount of \$677.70 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

John presented a proposed resolution to establish the Harvey County Food and Farm Council (HCFFC) as an advisory board. Steve McCloud, Harvey County Farm Bureau representative, stated that the Farm Bureau supports the creation of the HCFFC and spoke on behalf of a number of HCFFC representatives about the benefits of the HCFFC. The HCFFC will serve as forum to bring together diverse food-related sectors for discussion and coordination of community wide efforts to improve access to locally grown healthy foods, examine how food systems operate, and develop strategies for improvement. They will seek grant funding for their activities and are not requesting county funding. Carolyn McGinn, Ag producer & KS Senator, stated that she is a member and supporter of the HCFFC which will promote cooperation and accessibility to local healthy foods. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2015-14**, establishing the Harvey County Food and Farm Council. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Anthony presented a proposed resolution to levy property taxes to finance the 2016 budget of Harvey County exceeding the amount levied to finance the 2015 budget as adjusted to reflect changes in the CPI. This resolution is statutorily required to be passed prior to adopting a budget supported by such levy. Commissioner Westfall pointed out and quoted one of the paragraphs from the resolution; "Whereas, the 2015 Kansas State Legislature failed to fulfill its obligations in regard to statutory funding of demand transfers, has significantly limited state revenue sharing payments to counties, has previously taken action to phase out the County's Mortgage Registration Fee revenues, and in turn, has contributed to higher county property tax levies to finance the 2016 Harvey County budget." Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2015-12**, expressing the tax policy of the Board of Harvey County Commissioners with respect to financing the annual budget for 2016. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The 2016 Harvey County Budget was presented for adoption. The budgeted expenses are \$23,288,998.00 with ad valorem tax revenue of \$11,155,948.00. The commissioners thanked the department heads and elected officials for their cooperation to hold expenses down. They agreed that the new 800 MHz radio system was a necessity for public safety and the safety of all emergency personnel, paid and volunteer. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to adopt the 2016 Harvey County Budget. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The budget vote will be published per statutory requirement with a mill levy increase.

John stated that the number of 800 MHz radio system mobile and handheld units required by the county was miscalculated when the lease agreement with Motorola was made. An additional 14 mobile units are needed for Road & Bridge vehicles at a cost of \$25,500.00. The cost will be paid from the R&B operating budget instead of trying to amend the lease agreement. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to waive the purchasing policy and purchase the 14 additional mobile units from Motorola for \$25,500.00. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

Rick Piepho
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

Randy Hagler
Randy Hagler, Chairperson

Ron Krehbiel
Ron Krehbiel, Member

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