

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

**June 1, 2015**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on June 1, 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 called attention to the Grants Training workshop to be held in Haysville July 13-14.
2. Commissioner Westfall mentioned that LifeTeam Air Ambulance, Newton City/County airport tenant, has been nominated for a state award in Business Management.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel announced that the Halstead Firefighter Fundraiser event will be held on June 6 at 4 p.m.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel also mentioned the ground breaking ceremony for the bridge replacement on June 12. The time is yet to be determined.

Minutes of the May 26 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Anthony Swartzendruber reminded the commissioners of the EDC dinner at West Park on June 4.
2. Anthony presented the sales tax collection reports for May. Collections are up 4.19% for the month, which is the highest May since 2008. The year to date sales and use tax collections are up 8.16% compared to this time last year.
3. Anthony mentioned the article in the County Comment regarding the Statewide NG911 Migration.
4. Anthony gave an update on the courthouse improvement project.
5. Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, informed the commissioners that a 5,000 watt portable generator was stolen from the Oak Street building. A report has been submitted to the Newton Police Department.
6. Brian Palmer, Newton Airport Manager, reported that the mower and tractor were delivered last week. Fuel sales were up in May, although crop sprayers have not been able to work due to the wet weather.
7. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, introduced Derrick Richling, the Operations Supervisor for the parks. He reported that the kickball tournament will be rescheduled for later in the summer. Kass also thanked Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, for the help his department has given the Parks Department.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

Robert DuBois, Macon Township Trustee and Ray Stockebrand, Macon Township resident expressed frustration with commercial and residential vehicles driving past and/or moving road closed signs on SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street near the landfill. After the barricades were removed, several

vehicles got stuck. Rollin Schmidt, Solid Waste Superintendent, has spoken with the commercial haulers regarding the road. The township also has an issue with the railroad crossing at Hoover Road, one half mile south of Highway 50. Commissioner Westfall suggested they meet with the railroad to see if there was a design error that could be corrected. Meanwhile, Rough Crossing signs have been ordered and will be installed by the township.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$90,604.01 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Joyce Stockham, Executive Director, and Ciaira Herren presented the 2016 proposed low income assistance budget appropriation for the Mid-Kansas Community Action Program. There are 19 counties that participate in the program which provides financial, rent, and other assistance for clients. Thirty-six individuals in Harvey County were provided housing assistance in 2014. Twenty-three families were given assistance with the appropriation from Harvey County in 2014. The 2016 budget request is \$5,000, the same amount appropriated last year. Ms. Stockham expressed appreciation for the funding that has been provided by the County.

Margaret Hermstein, Register of Deeds, presented the proposed 2016 budget. She reviewed the 2014 accomplishments and the 2015 Goals. As a result of the legislation passed in 2014, the mortgage registration fees will decrease by an additional \$70,000 in 2016. There will be a small increase in Recording Fees.

Rex Yohn, Noxious Weed Director, presented the proposed 2016 Noxious Weed budget. He reviewed the 2014 accomplishments. Over 2,300 acres were sprayed for bindweed and 2.7 acres were sprayed for Johnsongrass. Less brush work was done this past year due to staff changes. The proposed 2016 budget includes capital outlay requests of \$1,000 for the purchase of a motor for the 2011 Honda GX240 and \$7,500, with trade-in, for an ATV. Commissioners commended Rex for the job he has done since becoming director.

Craig Clough, Appraiser, presented the proposed 2016 budget for the Appraiser's Office. Craig said the staff has attended numerous training classes. They also continue to update the county website, which now includes better interactive maps and data. The improvements have been greatly appreciated by the citizens of Harvey County. The proposed budget for the Real Estate Division includes \$1,300 for the purchase of a new computer and the GIS Division budget includes a request of \$3,100 for the purchase of a printer and a computer. The budget also contains a CIP project for \$60,000 to fly aerial photography. This project will update the County's current aerial photography last flown in 2006.

Kass Miller, Director of Parks, presented the 2016 proposed budget for the Parks Department. Budget items were reviewed and discussed. The 2016 revenue remains flat. Capital Improvement requests include \$40,000 for the purchase of a tractor, \$30,000 to replace the playground equipment at East Park, and \$18,000 to improve and secure the West Park well house. Kass also reviewed the CIP projects for 2017-2020. These include replacing the roof on the West Park residence garage, rebuilding the Walnut Grove well house, replacing the playground equipment at Walnut Grove and Willow Bend, two pre-cast bathrooms at Willow Bend beach and Camper's Row beach, updating the 30 amp service to 50 amp service, paving the roads and camping pads, and installing a new shower house/storm shelter at West Park.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Don Gruver, Director of 911 Communications Department, presented the proposed 2016 budget for the department. He reviewed the 2014 accomplishments and the 2015 and 2016 goals and objectives. This year's primary focus is getting the 800 MHz radio project up and running. He is hoping for the full system to be operational by late summer. 2016 will be a year of training and adapting to the new technology and new system. The 2016 Communications budget includes revenue from a new radio maintenance technician. Capital outlay items include \$1,000 for a new refrigerator, \$1,600 for two new dispatch chairs and \$1,000 for the purchase of an exercise bike for the dispatch consoles. Supplemental requests include \$32,400 for leasing two tower sites, \$90,339 for the annual maintenance on the new radio system and \$67,230 for hiring one full time and one half time dispatcher. There are not sufficient revenues in the 911 Fund to cover these expenses. Don suggested raising the alarm fees to a flat fee of \$250/year to bring in some additional revenue. It will be necessary to shift some of the 911 operation expenses to the general fund. In the 911 Combined Fund, equipment maintenance will be lower in 2016. Capital improvement items include \$6,450 for dispatch monitors and network switches and \$50,000 for radio channel upgrades. The 911 Wireless Fund will be spent down in 2016.

Anthony presented the proposed 2016 budget for the Bond and Interest Fund. The county currently has general obligation bonds for Schaben Road and Parking, Solid Waste facility, KLP development and the airport runway. The Solid Waste bonds will be paid off in 2015. The Public Building Commission has revenue bonds for the fairground development and land, airport Hangar W and the courthouse energy project. We also have a lease purchase for the Motorola Radio Project. The 2016 budget includes \$803,728 for bond principal and \$399,161 for bond interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

Rick Piepho  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

Randy Hague  
Randy Hague, Chairperson

Ron Krehbiel  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

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