

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 9, 2015

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on November 9, 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 the passing of Ann Religa on Wednesday, November 4. Ann was a devoted 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent in Harvey County for over 25 years. She battled cancer for five years, but continued to work until almost her last days. He stated that the visitation will be held this evening from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. with services to be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 10 a.m., both at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Newton. The commissioners expressed their appreciation for her service to the citizens of Harvey County and their condolences to her family.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that he attended a session on agricultural land valuation and taxation at the KAC conference last week. He stated that agricultural land taxation changes may be coming in the state legislature and that agricultural land owners need to be informed and prepared and express their concerns to their legislators.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel is scheduled to attend a Little Arkansas Watershed meeting on November 12 at 7:00 a.m. in Moundridge.
2. The Harvey County Habitat for Humanity fall fundraiser dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 12 at Faith Mennonite Church.

Minutes of the November 2 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Mary Adams, RSVP Coordinator, presented a proposed Veterans Day Proclamation. She also introduced veteran and RSVP volunteer Sam Banman and presented him with a lapel pin in recognition of his service to the community and the country. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the Veterans Day Proclamation declaring November 11, 2015 as a time for citizens to show appreciation to all veterans and their families for their service and contributions to our nation. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. John Waltner, Administrator, reported that at the Safe House dinner and auction last Friday Rod Nicholson purchased a tree that he would like to have displayed in the lobby of the courthouse. The commissioners agreed to display the tree and thanked Mr. Nicholson.
3. John reported that the barn in the horse trail area on county property on the west side of East Lake Rd. south of 24th St. is in very poor condition and needs to be razed. He recommends requesting bid proposals for the removal and cleanup of the structure including recycling of the lumber and materials. The commissioners agreed.

4. John presented the Real Estate Agreement for the sale of the county property at 316 N. Oak St., Newton to Midtown Properties, LLC. The sale of the property was authorized at last week's meeting. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the Real Estate Agreement and authorize the chairman to sign the document and subsequent documents to complete the transaction. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, presented photos and information on the recently completed replacement bridge structure 20-Q.9 on Anderson Rd. north of Dutch Ave. The photos showed that the final roadbed elevation on top of the structure is the same as the approaches on both sides. Some residents had expressed concerns about the height of the road during the construction phase.
6. Lynnette Redington, Health Department Director, reported that the by-laws for the Harvey County Food & Farm Council require the first chairperson of the newly formed organization be appointed by the County Commission. She stated that Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs has volunteered for this position. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to appoint Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs as the first chairperson of the Harvey County Food & Farm Council. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
7. Gary Denny, Emergency Management Director, reported that Dan Bronson has been hired to fill the part-time position in his office.
8. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, reported that later today he will meet with 360 Engineers for the close-out meeting for the construction phase of the courthouse project. He stated that the 1-year measure and verify phase will begin after the construction close-out.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Buford Kurr, 8903 S. Hillside, reported on issues regarding rural trash service contractors. He reported that for a long time Waste Connections was the only contractor offering services to rural residents, but recently Nisly Brothers began offering their services to rural residences in Harvey County. He stated that due to service issues and pricing he chose to switch his service to Nisly. After the switch Waste Connections sent him a bill for about \$400 for termination fees claiming that the original 5 year contract which was made more than 5 years ago auto-renewed after the original term. He stated that he wanted the commission to be aware of the situation that is probably affecting a lot of other rural residences in Harvey County. He stated that he is disputing the termination fee and asked the commission for any assistance that could be provided by them. Commissioner Westfall suggested he contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Kansas Attorney General.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$494,309.88 and a hand-written check in the amount of \$6,493.56 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Anthony reported that the JCB backhoe used at the landfill caught on fire last week. He stated that repairs are being attempted on the very old piece of equipment, but it will probably need to be replaced soon. He reported that the replacement is included in the CIP budget for 2016.

John presented copies of the contract between HNTB Corporation and the City of Newton for engineering services at the Newton City-County Airport. The RFQ review committee unanimously selected HNTB as the contractor for airport engineering services from the proposals submitted. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to support the selection of HNTB as the contractor for airport engineering services. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

John presented a Notice to Exercise Lease Option for 700 E. 14th St., Newton from ResCare. The notice informs the commission that ResCare hereby exercises the option to renew their lease for the county owned property for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 at the rate of \$1,750.00 a month. John stated that ResCare is a good tenant, but questioned whether the County should be a landlord. John reported that ResCare is not interested in purchasing the property, but he suggested the commission consider selling the property to a third party in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.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