

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 29, 2016

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 29, 2016 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Chairman Westfall expressed condolences on behalf of the commission for the victims and the families of the shootings in Newton and at Excel Industries, Inc. in Hesston last Thursday. The events left four dead, including the shooter, and fourteen injured. Most of the victims and the shooter, Cedric Ford, were Excel employees. Excel employees Josh Higbee, Renee Benjamin and Brian Sadowsky died as a result of the tragedy.
2. The commissioners expressed their thanks to all of the first responders and emergency personnel that were involved in the incidents on Thursday in Newton and Hesston.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. A retirement reception will be held for detention deputy Kay Supernois on March 17. Commissioner Hague will present a plaque recognizing her service to the county.

Minutes of the February 22 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, presented copies of the new passport brochure created by the Harvey County Register of Deeds Office. The brochure contains the hours of operation, regulations, fees and documents needed to apply for a passport at the Register of Deeds passport acceptance center.
2. Anthony presented copies of a tax lid fact sheet prepared by the League of Kansas Municipalities. Committee hearings for the tax lid bills are scheduled on March 8 & 9 for SB 316 in the senate tax committee and March 9 & 10 for HB 2609 in the house tax committee.
3. Anthony presented the sales tax collections report for February. Collections for the month are down from last year but up compared to the February collections in 2013 & 2014. He reminded the commission that the collections last February were higher than normal due to an anomaly.
4. Anthony presented a copy of the *We are #HesstonStrong* poster that is being distributed to be displayed to show support for the victims of the tragedy last Thursday. The poster will be displayed at numerous locations in the courthouse.
5. Gina Bell, Planning & Zoning Director, reported that she has received a few inquiries about permitting requirements for large scale free-range chicken operations. She also reported that the Planning & Zoning board will discuss the possible restructuring of their board at their next meeting.
6. Byron Warta reported that Tribine has moved into their new facility in the industrial park.
7. Craig Clough, Appraiser, presented the 2016 Abstract of Appraised and Assessed

- Valuation for the county. He reported that valuation notices were sent last week and that property owners have until March 31 to appeal their valuation. A hotline number has been setup for property owners to call to schedule a hearing; the number is 283-8347. He reported that total appraised values are up about 2% with total assessed values up about 3.5%. He also stated that agricultural values are up about 10% with the values based on an 8 year average use.
8. Craig reported that the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in favor of the counties that filed suit challenging K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 79-1460, which prohibits increasing the valuation of real property for 2 tax years after a successful valuation appeal without documented substantial and compelling reasons to do so. Harvey County joined with Johnson County and 19 other counties in the suit.
 9. Rick Piepho, County Clerk & Election Officer, stated that all of the township annual reports have been filed and are ready to be reviewed by the commission. A summary report will be prepared and will be presented next week. A brief discussion was held regarding the Pleasant Township Treasurer vacancy.
 10. Counselor Greg Nye presented a document outlining the airport rezoning.
 11. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, and Allan Libel, Shop Foreman, requested authorization to purchase a used 2015 Caterpillar 926M wheel loader. Foley Equipment is offering the unit with required accessories for \$139,954.00 after trade-in of \$16,000.00 for the 1992 Case 621ZF. Jim reported that this is a savings of \$25,406.00 from the \$165,000.00 budgeted for this year to purchase a replacement loader. They reported that a few weeks ago they used the same model loader as a demo; it meets all of their needs and all of the R & B staff liked the unit very well. Foley is also offering an option of renting the unit for a three month period for \$5,000.00 per month which would be applied to the purchase of the machine. Commissioner Hague made a motion to waive the purchasing policy and proceed with exercising the three month rental option and purchase the 2015 Caterpillar 926M wheel loader if staff is satisfied with the machine. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
 12. Jim reported that the project plan has been completed for the testing of a new road stabilization procedure. He stated that the 1 mile north of K-196 on S. East Lake Rd. will be resurfaced utilizing the new process. The entire procedure will be completed by the R & B department and should be done by the end of March.
 13. John Waltner, Administrator, and Counselor Greg Nye reported on the filing of a Motion for Order of Sheriff's Sale regarding the sale of the Halstead Hospital properties. The hearing by Judge Wilder is scheduled for March 8 at 2:30 p.m. They reported that they met with an auctioneer to discuss the requirements for an RFP to select an auctioneer to conduct the sale. The auctioneer stated that getting access to the buildings would be crucial to selling the properties; the auctioneer and prospective buyers will want to know the condition of the buildings. Greg is working with the owner of the properties to obtain access. John and Greg suggested conducting the sale without an auctioneer if access to the buildings is not allowed.
 14. John reported that the incident command system works very well as proven following the incidents in Newton and Hesston last Thursday. Harvey County Emergency Management personnel have done a good job of planning and conducting training for these types of incidents.
 15. John distributed copies of a required notice of application for a KDHE permit from Solomon and Merlin Unruh, owners of Spring Lake Farms, 913 S. Spring Lake Rd.,

Halstead. They have applied for a KDHE permit to modify and/or expand a livestock waste management facility to serve their swine operation.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$97,653.45 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

360 Energy Engineers representatives Joe Hurla and Kevin Player presented the October 2015 through December 2015 Measurement & Verification Report of the energy savings achieved as a result of the completion of the courthouse renovation project. They reported that the total energy (gas & electricity) savings are \$30,417 for the 3 month period; above the \$28,124 savings guaranteed. These reports will be provided each quarter.

Amber Roberts, Advanced Correctional Healthcare Site Manager, presented a Continuous Quality Improvement report of the medical care provided by them at the Harvey County Detention Center. The report includes all of the statistics including inmate counts and all healthcare related activities by month for the last year.

Gary Denny, Emergency Management Director, distributed copies of the February 29 through March 2 Incident Coordination Plan for the Excel Incident that was prepared for the incident meeting that was held this morning. The commissioners thanked Gary for conducting a well coordinated event. Gary reported that they are transitioning from a type 3 to a type 4 incident management team; the management of the event has been turned over to Hesston City personnel with shadowing and assistance provided by his office. He stated that law enforcement presence is decreasing and they turned the Excel facility back over to the company at 3 p.m. on Sunday. He reported that the response phase is over and they are currently in the recovery phase of the incident. Gary thanked Dan Bronson for doing a great job as planning section chief for the incident. Gary stated that the planning and training that started about 6 months ago with an active shooter training session held a few weeks ago were very beneficial to implementing a successful plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

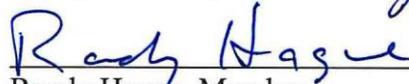
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:


Rick Piepho, County Clerk


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Randy Hague, Member


Ron Krehbiel, Member