MINUTES OF

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 3, 2016

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on October 3, 2016 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he received a call regarding Ridge Road, south of Highway 50, near Moore's Orchard. It was reported that the ditches were not draining and there was water up to the house. John Waltner, County Administrator, will pass this information to Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, to have it checked on.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he will be attending a public hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 4, in the Hutchinson Kansas Department of Transportation conference room to review a petition that proposes to expand the boundaries of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 (GMD No. 2). A public informational session will be conducted at 8:00 a.m. with a public hearing to follow at 9:00 a.m. Byron Warta will also be attending.
3. Commissioner Hague reported that he attended the tenant appreciation at the Newton City/County Airport. He also attended the Taste of Newton and talked to several citizens regarding the possible sale of Camp Hawk.
4. Commissioner Westfall asked if there was any further information about the pending traffic study on SW 36th & Anderson. John will get more information from Jim Meier.
5. Commissioner Westfall extended congratulations to the Harvey County Extension Office. The Master Gardener Program and Community Giving Garden won the State Championship.
6. Commissioner Krehbiel asked about existing speed limit signs on Meridian due to the addition of the bike lanes. John will find out if there is a southbound speed limit sign and whether the county would be responsible for the sign.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. There is a lunch meeting scheduled at noon on Tuesday, October 4, in the Judge's conference room.
2. The active shooter focus group will meet on November 30.
3. The Prairie View Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on October 6. Commissioner Krehbiel will not be able to attend.
4. The Local Emergency Planning meeting is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on October 12.

Minutes of the September 22 Commission special joint work session with the Newton City Commission were approved, with one correction, upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes of the September 26 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. John Waltner, Administrator, reported that he and Anthony Swartzendruber met with

Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas President, EDC staff and city representatives regarding workforce issues. John stated that he is pursuing making changes and will bring a letter to the commission within the next week to then be sent to the state. He would like to formally begin conversations with Workforce One and develop a memorandum of understanding.

2. John stated that there will be an active shooter training (ALICE) for staff during the Columbus Day meetings in the community room. John also stated that the Health Department will be offering flu and pneumonia shots to the staff that day.
3. There will be a retirement reception for Rich Hanley on October 19 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the community room.
4. John stated that the position for the Department of Aging Director was offered to Robert Carlton, with a starting annual salary of $51,126.40. He would begin on October 10. A motion to approve the hiring of Robert Carlton as the Department of Aging Director at an annual salary of $51,126.40 effective October 10 was made by Commissioner Krehbiel and seconded by Commissioner Hague. The motion passed unanimously.
5. John presented a proposed appointment for a member of the Harvey County Advisory Committee for Prairie View. The recommendation is to appoint Dorothy Nickel-Friesen to replace the position previously held by Dave Reimer. Commissioner Hague made a motion to waive the second reading and appoint Dorothy Nickel-Friesen for the term November 2016 to November 2019 to the Harvey County Advisory Committee for Prairie View and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. Gary Denny, Emergency Management Director, reported that the first responder meetings with the school district will begin again this week.
7. Kass Miller, Parks Director, stated that the supplies for continuing work on the West Park bathhouse will be arriving this week. Kass also stated that an attempted suicide took place at East Park over the weekend.
8. The commissioners extended condolences to Kass Miller on the passing of his mother.
9. Greg Nye, County Counselor, reported that a tax foreclosure publication will be published this coming Friday. The tax foreclosure has been split into two parts to make it more manageable. This first publication is for property owners with unknown addresses. They have 41 days to file an answer before Counselor Nye takes judgement. The sale date has not yet been set. The publications for the sale of Camp Hawk and the ResCare building will also be in the paper again this week.
10. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, reported that sales tax collections were up for the month of September and the 3rd quarter compared to last year.
11. Anthony Swartzendruber stated that a recommendation will be coming to the commissioners soon for the financial and tax system. Counselor Nye is currently reviewing draft contracts.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Numerous citizens showed up in support of keeping Camp Hawk. Brandon Nelson, North Newton resident and Camp Hawk volunteer, expressed his opposition to the sale of Camp Hawk. He stated that it appears to him that the county avoided the park board and the

Harvey County citizens when the county decided to sell Camp Hawk. Commissioner Hague stated that it had been brought to the park board several years ago. Commissioner Westfall stated that the funds from selling Camp Hawk would help improve the other two parks. Commissioner Westfall also stated that Camp Hawk is used more than the commission realized. If Camp Hawk is sold, a new disc golf course could be built at either East or West Park, with input from interested parties. Brandon was also upset to find out about this proposed sale through the newspaper. The commissioners stated that they had followed statute for the sale of county property. In wrap-up, Brandon stated that he'll continue to volunteer, if allowed. He does not want Camp Hawk sold in order to benefit the other two parks. Jeff Laha, Clearwater, Kansas resident, spoke in favor of saving Camp Hawk. He has played disc golf on numerous courses. Jeff stated that Camp Hawk is a challenging course that he uses 15-20 times a year. He would be willing to pay to play and would love to see Camp Hawk remain as is. Brandon Hasty, Newton resident, encouraged the commission to find ways to generate revenue at Camp Hawk. Brandon stated that Camp Hawk draws a lot of people in to Harvey County. Chris Smith, Newton resident, has lived in Harvey County for 4 years and is a teacher in Newton. Chris stated that Camp Hawk is what has kept him in Harvey County. The disc golf tournaments bring in 80-100 people and they have to turn people away. He stated that another course would not be the same. He feels the proximity to the City of Newton is a very important. Chris encouraged the commissioners to do what is best for the citizens of Harvey County. Jim Juhnke of North Newton stated that it would be helpful if the public were given more information about the projected sale. Jim asked if there was a minimum sale price, how that money would be used and whether the sale would result in a reduction of Park staff. John Waltner stated that the number of personnel would not change. John also stated that the best guestimate of Camp Hawk's worth is $300,000. Several other attendees spoke in favor of keeping Camp Hawk. After more discussion, the commission closed Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of $100,642.91 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

John Waltner, Administrator, informed the commissioners that Larry Sharp, KCAMP Representative, cancelled for today's commission meeting.

Judge Dickinson and Jennifer Foster, 9th Judicial District Court Administrator, presented quotes for the completion of the jury room remodel project. The estimated cost is $15,500. Costs are inclusive of all materials and labor necessary to complete the remodel project. They would like to proceed with the remodel as soon as possible. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to amend the original CIP estimate for the jury room remodel to the amount of $15,500. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss confidential matters concerning pending litigation. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, and Counselor Greg Nye. At 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 5 minutes to discuss confidential matters concerning pending litigation with the same attendees present. Counselor Nye made sure there were no citizens waiting to speak with the Commission. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed

unanimously. Executive session ended at 11:00 a.m. with no action being taken. Counselor Nye again checked to make sure there were no citizens waiting to speak with the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY COUNTY Seal KANSAS

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

Rick Piepho, County Clerk

Ron Krehbiel, Member