

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Work Session

October 4, 2016

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in a special session on October 4, 2016. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. in Judge Joe Dickinson's Conference Room. All three commissioners were in attendance along with Judge Joe Dickinson, Judge Steven Hilgers, Sheriff T. Walton, County Attorney David Yoder and County Clerk Rick Piepho. Also in attendance were John Waltner, Administrator, Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, and three staff members from the County Attorney's Office.

John explained that the reason for the meeting is to discuss the costs to the county for juvenile detention. He reported that the costs have been increasing in recent years and the purpose of the meeting is to make sure that everyone involved in juvenile detention decisions are aware of the costs and reassure the commission that they are aware.

Sheriff Walton reported that it cost \$150 per day plus transportation costs to detain a juvenile at the Bob Johnson facility in Hutchinson compared to approximately \$54 per day to house an adult in the Harvey County Detention Center. He stated that there are very few other options or facilities with space available to house these juveniles.

David and his staff presented information regarding some of the details regarding some of specific individuals that attributed to the total costs for juvenile detention this year. Judge Hilgers pointed out that there are three individuals who committed very serious crimes and spent the most days in detention therefore accounting for the biggest majority of the total costs. He stated detention of a juvenile is only recommended when there are no other alternatives available to ensure the safety of the victims and the public.

A discussion was held about new legislation regarding juvenile detention that begins to take effect on January 1, 2017 with full implementation by July 2018. The new legislation requires implementation of alternatives to detention of juveniles. David stated that Harvey County already has some alternative programs in place that are used to reduce the number of juveniles that are detained.

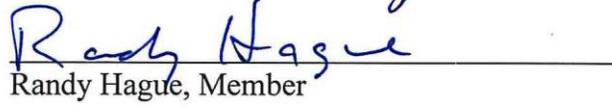
David explained that his office seeks civil judgements for reimbursement of juvenile detention costs after the criminal cases have been closed, but collections are unlikely. The commissioners asked if transportation costs are included in civil cases. David replied that transportation costs are currently not included, but agreed that those costs should be added to the total judgement sought.

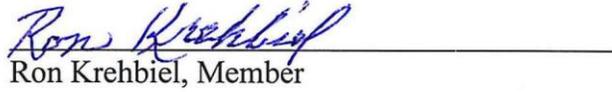
The meeting of the County Commission was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Randy Hague, Member


Ron Krehbiel, Member

ATTEST:


Rick Piepho, County Clerk