

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

**June 10, 2013**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on June 10, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Hague attended an open house on Saturday at the Walton Fire Station. The Fire Department recently completed an addition to the existing station. He reported that they have a very nice facility.
2. Commissioner Westfall received a request for a stop sign to be placed at SW 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Anderson Road for northbound traffic on Anderson. There is apparently a sight restriction at the corner. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, will look into it.
3. Commissioner Westfall was the featured speaker at the Newton Senior Center last week. He was asked why the County does not levy a full mill to fund programs for seniors. State statute allows counties to levy up to one mill for senior funding.
4. Commissioner Westfall informed the Commission that he has learned that some counties, including Harvey, now allow people to set up an escrow account that they pay into on a monthly basis to be used to pay their taxes when they come due.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. A special budget meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, following the regular Commission meeting. The Commissioners will review all capital improvement requests at that time.
2. A special budget meeting will also be held on Tuesday, July 9 from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. The entire county budget will be discussed and reviewed.
3. A portion of the REAP Executive Board will meet with the new President of Wichita State University, Dr. John Bardo, on Thursday, June 13 at 1:30 p.m. They will discuss the joint operations between REAP and WSU.
4. There will be a REAP Executive Board meeting in Wichita on June 28 at 10:00 a.m.
5. Commissioner Hague will attend a Council of Governments meeting where a final report on the legislative session that just ended will be presented.
6. Commissioner Westfall will attend a quarterly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Commission at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12.
7. Commissioner Westfall and spouse and Commissioner Krehbiel and spouse will attend the annual meeting of the Economic Development Council on Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel College.

Minutes of the June 3 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner stated that the current Court Trustee, Harold Schorn, will soon lose most of his case load because the State of Kansas will now bid out all SRS child support cases to be handled in a different way. Harold Schorn will now handle only non-SRS child support cases. Since the Court Trustee Program is such an essential part of District Court, Judge Walker has asked to be able to move Harold Shorn and some of his staff to an extra conference room in the District Court Offices in order for him to finalize the collections that are currently in progress. Judge Walker is also planning to talk to Reno County about setting up a Court Trustee Program that Harold Shorn could administrate. The County has been asked to provide phones, but no furniture or computers. The Commissioners agreed to provide the office space as long as there are no cases from the private practice handled there.
2. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that patching continues on South Hertzler Road. However, even though all workers wear reflective vests, they have had numerous complaints about the lack of flagmen at the construction site. The decision has therefore been made to close South Hertzler Road one mile at a time until the patching is completed. Jim reported that they have a problem with inattentive drivers using cell phones in the construction sites.
3. John reported that he and Gina Bell, Director of Planning & Zoning, talked with a gentleman from Dodge City about setting up a horse racing operation in Harvey County. There is currently some horse racing occurring at a location south of Halstead on weekends. However, this is a totally different operation. Although there will not be pari-mutuel betting, it will still need to be sanctioned by the state gaming commission. The location of the proposed track is not yet known, but the gentleman prefers that it be on a paved road.
4. John reported that Lynnette Redington has asked him to remind the Commissioners about the KDHE listening tour on June 26 at the Hughes Metroplex at WSU. This meeting is to discuss health services collaborations. Although there is no cost to attend, the Commissioners will need to register if they plan to go.
5. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to appoint Marjorie Warta to a three-year successor term as a Harvey County representative on the Board of the Harvey/Marion County CDDO and authorize the Chairman to sign the appointment. The term will begin on July 1, 2013 and end on June 30, 2016. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. John informed the Commissioners that the current health insurance provider for the County has not yet provided the insurance renewal costs for the 2014 budget year. Administration staff is looking at different options, including a partially self-funded program, to help reduce costs.
7. Byron Warta reported that work continues at the Airport to rebuild the runway. The final phase of the project has begun with the demolition of the last third of the old runway. Byron also reported the plan proposed by the City of Wichita has not had a favorable response from others around the State.
8. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that there will be an auditor here all day on Wednesday. He is also looking at phone service vendors to hopefully obtain the best pricing for service in the Courthouse.

## **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Jason Mitchell thanked the Commission for continuing to keep the County mill levy the lowest in the state. He asked about proposed changes in the Kansas Logistics Park Development Authority Board. John explained that there is some talk about including business people from the private sector as well as representatives from the City of Newton, Harvey County, and the Economic Development Council. Jason is concerned about private business people, as a part of this board, having the authority to spend tax dollars. He also stated that he thinks that citizens should have the right to carry guns into the Courthouse as a concealed carry. Because of new state laws, Courthouses will have to have metal detectors and an armed guard in order to ban guns in the building.

David Nygaard addressed the Commission regarding the proposal to discontinue the Senior Patrol Program as a result of proposed budget cuts. Mr. Nygaard gave statistics on how many hours the senior patrol has logged and the savings to the County represented by those hours. He explained that the senior patrol does house checks, water well checks, and volunteers at the fair, car shows, parades, Salvation Army, etc. Mr. Nygaard stated that he feels that it is not in the best interest of the County to discontinue the Senior Patrol and requested that the Commission put a specific line item into the budget for the Senior Patrol. Commissioner Krehbiel stated that he thinks the Patrol has done a good job.

David Yoder, County Attorney, updated the Commission about an attempt by Gregory Moore, who was convicted in the shooting death of Deputy Kurt Ford, to recover \$4,000 that was seized from the Moore residence on the night of the shooting. Counselor Yoder filed an objection in Sedgwick County District Court to prevent Mr. Moore from obtaining the money. In addition, the widow of Deputy Ford obtained a civil wrongful death suit and a lien has been filed against the money Mr. Moore owes concerning that. Counselor Yoder therefore does not anticipate that the money would be returned to Mr. Moore.

Todd Hanchett, Undersheriff, reported that they have had an issue with backed up drains at the Law Enforcement Center. Star Drain has looked at the problem and said that the line to the main sewer line is running slightly uphill. The recommendation is to try to run more water through to hopefully flush everything on out to the main line.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$86,077.74 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Richard Denno presented the 2014 proposed budget for the Harvey County Free Fair and Saddle Club. The requested appropriation is \$22,000, which is the same as was requested for 2013, other than the portion for the Saddle Club, which is increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500 because of increased stock costs for the rodeo. Sandy Frazier and Morrie Unruh talked about the Saddle Club and explained about the Rodeo, which was voted by the contestants as the best rodeo in this area. The Saddle Club has added a storage shed and made improvements to their concession stand. The Commission will take the budget under advisement.

The Commissioners left at 11:55 a.m. to attend lunch at the Historical Society.

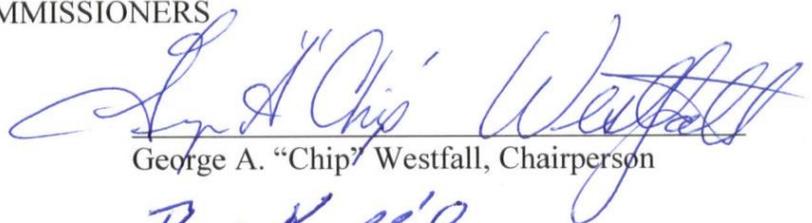
The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, presented the proposed 2014 budget. John Waltner stated that the department is having difficulty keeping up with the maintenance and repair of county roads within the existing funding structure. The budget contains a capital request of \$10,500 to paint all the buildings at the Road & Bridge Department and install a new fence around the perimeter. Also included is a request for \$1,187,796 to replace a bridge on North Burmac over the Little Arkansas River, \$48,000 to replace two dump truck beds, and \$1,624,656 for resurfacing projects for 2014. The City of Walton has asked for some help with their roads to change the routing to the elevator in an attempt to get the trucks off of Highway 50. They want to mill the road, correct the drainage flow and put down rock. All materials will be funded by the City of Walton. The Commission will take the budget under advisement.

Anthony Swartzendruber presented the proposed 2014 budget for Courthouse General. The budget includes capital improvement requests of \$400,000 for building improvements, \$22,000 for a vehicle purchase, \$17,880 for data processing equipment, and other capital outlay requests for \$5,000. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

Joyce Truskett reported that Raymond Smith of Lake Township has resigned from his position as Township Officer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

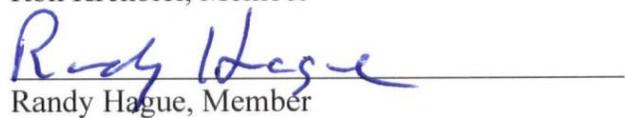
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

  
Randy Hague, Member

