

**MINUTES OF**  
**BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 12, 2013**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on August 12, 2013 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 many of the Alta Township roads in the northwest area of the county are flooded and have been badly damaged by the water. Commissioner Hague reported that he was north and east of Hesston last week and the roads there have also been damaged. Commissioner Westfall reported that the East Lake camp ground area is badly damaged by the wind storm that went through last Monday evening. There are a significant number of trees down.
2. Commissioner Westfall cited a report that states that 10% of all bridges within the State of Kansas are deficient, which places the state in about the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of all the states. He also reported that the Harvey County Fair ended and the 4-H auction brought in over \$50,000.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Park Board meeting will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the West Park Community Building at 7:00p.m. One of the Commissioners will attend to present plaques to four retiring members of the Park Board.
2. The Farm Bureau breakfast is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00a.m. at the Breadbasket.
3. The Chamber breakfast will be held on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00a.m. at the Meridian Center.
4. The Republican Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. at Athletic Park.
5. Commissioner Westfall will attend a REAP Executive meeting and a Transition Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H Extension Office in Wichita at 1:00p.m.
6. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend a meeting of the Little Arkansas River Drainage District on Thursday, August 15 at 7:00a.m.
7. A meeting will be held on Friday, August 16 at 9:00a.m. at Newton City Hall for the signing with the Port of Kansas City.
8. The Commissioners are invited to attend the PEAK Award ceremony at Schowalter Villa on August 22.
9. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at AGCO at 11:00a.m. on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, to dedicate the new plant revitalization project. It is anticipated that the Governor will be in attendance.

Minutes of the August 5 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner updated the Commissioners about the possibility of self-funding health insurance for the County. He reported that the potential costs and risks for the first year are very significant and it will not be possible to do this for the 2014 year.
2. The Commissioners received notification that one representative will be selected to represent the State of Kansas at the National Association of Counties. Duane Patrick, McPherson County Commissioner, is the current representative and is eligible for one more term which will end in 2015. If the Commissioners wish to nominate anyone else, they may do so.
3. The Commissioners received notification that a delegate to serve on the KWORCC Board will also be selected. Dr. Steve Garton of Barber County is currently serving as the delegate and has indicated that he would like to continue.
4. The Commissioners will need to select voting delegates and alternate delegates for the Kansas Association of Counties meeting to be held in Wichita in October.
5. Harvey County West Park was closed last week due to flooding. All campers, with the exception of one, were moved to higher ground at the new community building. The rental residence there did not receive any damage, but there was an electrical problem that had to be taken care of. East Lake received significant tree damage. About 75% of the damage on camper's row has now been cleaned up, but the remainder of the cleanup will have to wait until the high water recedes. It is hoped that a burn pile for brush can be established near the damage area to assist in the cleanup.
6. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, reported that most all of the townships in the county have significant road damage from flooding. Much of the road material was washed away. Some of them are also dealing with trees that fell into the roadways. Although the flooding is not over, an estimate of costs to repair roads, bridges, etc. needs to be submitted to FEMA by tomorrow evening. He will participate in a conference call to FEMA on Wednesday morning. He has also been in contact with the Red Cross who provided cleaning kits to 25 residences to clean up sewer backups. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to extend the declaration of disaster dated August 7<sup>th</sup> for an additional 7 days and authorize Mr. Buller to further extend the declaration if necessary. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Lonnie reported that Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, and the Road & Bridge Department have done an excellent job and have been very good to work with. John Waltner added that both Road & Bridge and the Sheriff's Department have worked almost around the clock and have done a terrific job.
7. Jim Meier reported that most gravel roads in the County are a mess and it is impossible to get equipment on them to repair them. As far as surfaced roads, the main area of concern is an area on North Burmac Road between 60<sup>th</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> that is seriously undermined. Crews have been out picking up debris. It is unknown how much damage has occurred because of brush debris against bridge pilings. Commissioner Westfall reported that the airport received between a quarter and a half million dollars in damages from winds estimated at approximately 90 mph last Monday evening. The Air Med hangar received the most damage.

8. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the Road & Bridge Department did an excellent job of responding to requests for barricades. Complicating the difficulties were people going around and moving barricades. The first floor of the jail was water saturated, not from roof leakage, but from water coming up through the drain. Commissioner Krehbiel stated that with everything that has happened, we are very thankful that we have not had any fatalities.
9. John presented **Resolution No. 2013-16**, altering the fees charged by Harvey County Sheriff for the maintenance and care of prisoners, and repealing **Resolution No. 2010-11**. The fees will be raised from \$55 per day to \$60 per day. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hague seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

Chris Vanderweg and his mother, Jodie Beeson, attended the meeting for Chris to fulfill a requirement to become an Eagle Scout.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$111,015.05 and hand printed checks in the amount of \$882.39 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission recessed at 10:00 a.m. for a period of 15 minutes.

At 10:15 a.m. Jim Meier opened bids for painted pavement marking of 18 miles of two-lane divided highway. One bid was received from Midwest Striping of Grand Island Nebraska. The total bid was \$15,810. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to accept and approve the bid. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 10:25 a.m. Anthony Swartzendruber presented information in preparation for the final adoption of the 2014 budget for Harvey County. Commissioner Krehbiel stated that although he does not like to raise taxes, the Commission has done everything they could but that it is important to keep up the roads and bridges in the County. Commissioner Hague stated that he also does not like to raise taxes, but that in this case it is a necessity. He said it is important to obtain funding for the maintenance of twenty road miles per year rather than six. Department heads, elected officials, and staff were commended for their input and work in turning in as flat a budget as possible. Commissioner Westfall stated that Road & Bridge will now be funded at the proper level and no services will be cut. Anthony pointed out that the Capital Improvement Plan for budget years 2015 and 2016 include significant amounts for equipment purchases for the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the 2014 Harvey County budget in the amount of \$21,805,998, with \$9,476,033 budgeted in ad valorem taxes. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Lisa Bartel, Harvey County Health & Wellness Coordinator, gave a report on the Healthy Harvey Rewards Program which runs from January 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013. This program enables employees to earn credits by participating in wellness activities which in turn allows them to pay a lower premium for Harvey County health insurance. There are several ways to earn

credits, but the main requirement for employees to earn the required credits was to participate in a biometric screening and health risk assessment. There were 116 employees and 1 spouse that participated in the screening. Of those participants, 92 are on the county health insurance. There are four main areas targeted in the screening, nutrition, weight, exercise, and stress. The results indicated that 63 employees are in a high risk group because of deficient nutrition, 60 are outside their proper weight range, 41 do not get proper exercise, and 26 percent of employees reported a high level of stress. Stress relief for employees is a major concern. Eleven county employees chose not to participate in the screening and will pay higher rates for their insurance premiums. Those extra monies will be used to fund the wellness programs. John Waltner reported that because of the wellness program, claims with Preferred Health Systems are beginning to show some change. There is also a higher utilization of maintenance drugs, which is a good thing. Lisa reported that there are eight employees that have already completed the necessary number of credits and have turned in their claim sheets.

Courtney Becker, Director of 911 Communications, and Don Gruver, Assistant Director, gave a presentation detailing the difficulties with narrowbanding and the VHF system of the Harvey County public safety radio network. Narrowbanding has reduced system coverage by 30 to 40% and all surrounding counties, with the exception of Marion, have gone to 800 MHz systems. There are three options that can be considered:

- Increase existing VHF system
- VHF Trunking
- State P25 800

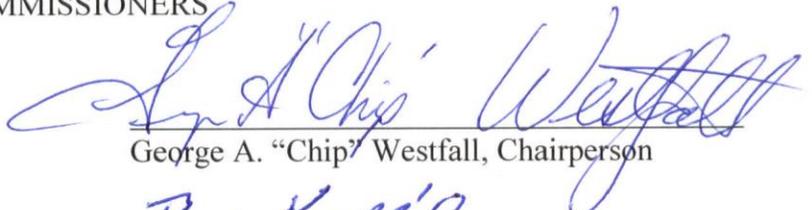
The consensus is that the State P25 800 would be the best option, enabling coverage in fringe areas and surrounding counties, providing interoperability with some surrounding counties and state agencies. However, 90% of the existing radios would have to be replaced and there would be increased radio and ongoing maintenance costs. The upgrade proposal also includes:

- An 8-channel site at Camp Hawk
- 5 channel sites in the west part of the county and Hesston area
- 2 additional paging transmitters at East Lake and Halstead or Burrton
- 3 talkaround channels for on-scene operations
- DVRS at East Lake and in each community

The estimated cost for the upgrade is an estimated \$5,000,000. Hopefully the County could apply for and receive the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 in addition to a state Byrne grant, which would enable the purchase of approximately 25 radios. There may also be some funds set aside from a law enforcement DHS grant for the purchase of 25 radios. Sedgwick County also plans to donate approximately 12 radios to ERT this year. The Commissioners directed Courtney and Don to establish a timeline for the project and to proceed by completing applications for the grants to help fund it. Information should then be brought back before the Commission.

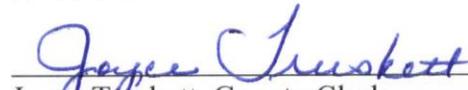
The meeting was adjourned at 12:06p.m.

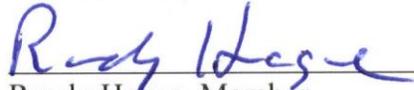
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

  
Randy Hague, Member

