

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

**February 25, 2013**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 25, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. The KWORCC report scheduled at 10:45 a.m. has been cancelled due to poor traveling conditions for KWORCC personnel based in Topeka.
2. Commissioner Krehbiel said that it was reported that the flu vaccinations that were given this year were effective for only 9% of those who received them.
3. Commissioner Krehbiel asked how EDC salaries are funded. John informed him that the salaries are paid out of the EDC budget which is funded by tax dollars from Harvey County, the City of Newton, and the other participating entities. The consulting fees for Initiatives Inc. are paid by the City of Newton. Travel expenses for the director of the EDC are paid out of the EDC budget.
4. The meeting of the judicial nominating committee scheduled for last Friday was cancelled due to weather. The meeting will be rescheduled to a later date.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. There will be no airport meeting today.
2. The meeting of the Walton Senior Citizens scheduled for Friday, March 1 has been rescheduled to Friday, March 8. The meeting will be held at the Whistle Stop Restaurant and Commissioner Westfall will be the featured speaker.
3. The canvass of the April 2 City/School elections will be held at 9:45 a.m. on April 8.
4. The REAP legislative meeting that was scheduled for February 22 will be rescheduled.

Minutes of the February 19, 2013 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. The Commission heard the second reading for an appointment to the RSVP Advisory Council. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the appointment of Ronald Bretz to the RSVP Advisory Board and authorize the Chairman to sign.. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. The Commissioners received a copy of the summary of the post audit report evaluating the revenue impact of machinery and equipment classification and valuation. The report was prepared by the Legislative Division of Post Audit. There is currently a "trade fixtures" bill before the legislature that could change the classification of machinery and equipment that is currently included in real estate valuation to personal property valuation. The hearing for the bill, HB 2285, was

- rescheduled from last Thursday to this afternoon. With the additional inclement weather, it may have to be rescheduled again. If this bill should pass, it is estimated that it could reduce assessed valuation in Harvey County by about 3%, which could result in a mill increase of 1.2 mills. The summary cited recommendations that the Kansas Division of Property Valuation take responsibility for assisting and guiding appraisers to classify and value complex manufacturing plants.
3. John Waltner, Administrator, reported that he attended a meeting last Friday with Randall Allen, Director of the Kansas Association of Counties, Joel Wright, Consultant, and four other county administrators from this area. They are in the process of organizing a “think tank” which would include Will Johnson from Butler County; Rick Witte from McPherson County; Gary Meagher from Reno County; and Jeremy Willman from Cowley County. They will consider prioritization of what counties do, what counties should continue to do, and what more should counties be doing.
  4. John reported that Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, informed him that the Department has received a planning grant from the Central Kansas Community Foundation in the amount of \$24,939 to be used for the promotion of the Harvey County Health Coalition.
  5. John reported that there was some damage to an awning on the bait shop at West Park caused by sliding snow from the roof.
  6. Matt Schmitt, Director of Health Ministries, has agreed to meet with the Commissioners either as a group or separately to discuss a possible board appointment for their board.
  7. John informed the Commissioners that he will be out of state on Friday and possibly Monday.
  8. The Commissioners received a copy of an editorial written by H. Edward Flentje, Professor at Wichita State University, about changes in the state budget which include cutting state income taxes, eliminating the deduction of mortgage interest and property taxes, and shifting money from the highway fund.
  9. Sheriff T. Walton reported that there were 3 non-injury accidents, 1 injury accident, and many many slide-offs during the storm last Thursday and Friday.
  10. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator, presented sales tax figures for February of 2013. Sales tax collections were 2.9% higher than the same period last year.
  11. Mary Spires, RSVP Coordinator, reported to John that Harvey County will again receive the CNCS grant which funds the RSVP program. However, there is a chance that sequestration at the federal level could affect the receipt of the grant. The current grant runs out at the end of March.
  12. John introduced Eric Litweiler, the new director of CASA.
  13. Kass Miller, East Lake Supervisor, presented the invitation to bidders for the purchase of two new or used 2012 or 2013 half-ton pickup trucks. The amount budgeted for each truck is \$19,000. The bid invitation includes specifications for an extended cab with an 8 foot bed and requires that the truck have less than 5,000 miles. The commissioners suggested the specifications be changed to a minimum 6 foot bed with less than 20,000 miles and include a declaration of warranty.

Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the bid specifications with the proposed changes. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$53,166.85 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, gave a report on the snow event that occurred last week. They struggled with some equipment failure, particularly on Wednesday evening, but all personnel worked hard and performed admirably. They responded to every challenge when needed, however needed, and for as long as needed. Paved roads were the first priority and they ran four plows per shift. Graders were used on the unpaved roads. One of the plows sustained some major damage when it hit something, but for the most part things went well. The Commissioners received many compliments from the public and a few complaints. It was difficult to please everyone when the snowfall was so significant. Jim praised the school districts for closing schools which eliminated a great deal of traffic on the roads. Road & Bridge crews also helped some very appreciative stranded motorists. Sheriff Walton reported that they had taken some people who needed medical assistance to the hospital because ambulances were not able to get to them. Essential county personnel were also transported to work. Although the Courthouse was closed, the payroll clerk traveled from Peabody at 4:30 a.m. on Thursday morning and worked until payroll was completed so all county employees would get paid on time. Many essential county personnel responded in exemplary fashion.

Anthony reported that the vendor is in the process of programming the new phone system but is taking longer than had been anticipated. Anthony is helping with the programming changes to do as much as possible in advance of the change. Most of the remaining analog phones are being replaced with digital phones.

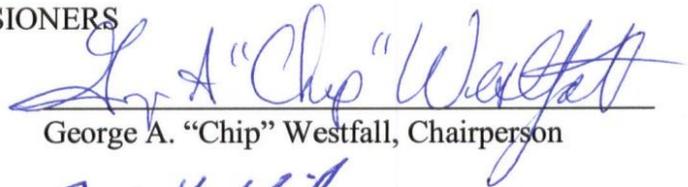
There were some changes performed last week by communications and data processing staff to alter the way the servers are set up in the county system. This will enable the law enforcement and communications departments to function, for the most part, on their own servers. This will hopefully eliminate down time for those departments while the main system is being re-booted. The communications department was without their CAD system for 12 hours while these changes were being performed. There were thankfully very few calls that came in.

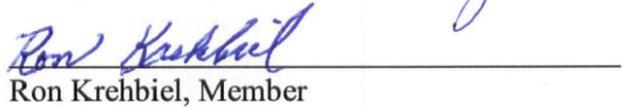
Lonnie Buller, Emergency Management Director, also gave a report on the storm. A preplanning meeting was held prior to the storm last week to make sure that all agencies involved knew what was going to happen and how to manage their responsibilities. This area received roughly 12 inches of snow. On Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> there were 11 vehicles that slid off roadways, 20 non-injury accidents, and 2 injury accidents. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, there were 78 vehicles that slid off roadways, 15 non-injury accidents, and 2 injury accidents. On Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> there were 7 vehicles that slid off roadways and 3 non-injury accidents. The storm that is predicted for today has been

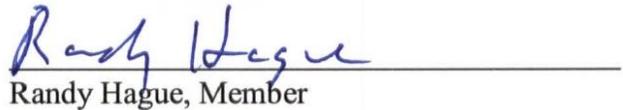
downgraded some, with the expectation of 8 inches of snow or less. John reported that the Transfer Station was also closed last Thursday and the City of Newton changed the Thursday trash pick up schedule to Saturday. City trash haulers have the ability to take trash to the transfer station even when it is closed, so it is believed that the schedule was changed because of the inability of residents to get their trash to the curb and the inability of the trash trucks to get around. Commissioner Krehbiel requested that the Road & Bridge Department, Sheriff's Department, Communications Department, and other essential personnel that worked hard and went above and beyond during the storm be commended publicly for their service.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

