

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 13, 2013

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 13, 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 Westfall requested that letters be sent to the Boy Scouts thanking them for the completion of their project at West Park, building two picnic tables with shelters there.
2. The staff at West Park has asked that the employee picnic be moved from the weekend following Memorial Day to a later weekend in June to allow them to better prepare for the picnic. The date for the employee picnic was set for Sunday afternoon, June 23.
3. Commissioner Westfall reported that the Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference they attended last week was very good. One of the items reported was that the KDHE will no longer provide support for Health Departments to test for STDs. He requested that the Health Department be notified of this change.
4. Commissioner Westfall reported that the research report on taxation in the State of Kansas is out and Harvey County continues to have the lowest taxes per capita.
5. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that there was an article in the Hutchinson News that stated that there is a large wind energy company from Iowa that is hoping to place another 650 wind energy units in southwest and northwest Kansas.
6. Commissioner Westfall reported on an article in the Wichita Eagle about a professor that has developed a process to “trap” and store solar energy.
7. Commissioner Westfall reported that Colonel Charles Colton from McConnell Air Force Base spoke at the REAP meeting this morning about the economic impact of the air base in south central Kansas.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. There will be a special budget meeting following the regular meeting on July 1, and another special meeting on Tuesday, July 9.

Minutes of the May 6 commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Counselor Greg Nye presented information on the proposed vacation of Osage Road. The road is a low maintenance road that runs through both Harvey and Butler Counties. Richland Township in Harvey County and Milton Township in Butler County are responsible for maintaining the road. Darrel Lutes, Butler County

Engineer; Noble Wolf, Jeremy and Christi Patry, and Thomas Patry, adjacent landowners, attended the meeting to discuss the issue. Mr. Lutes indicated that the bridge on the road is definitely unsafe and he will make a recommendation to the Butler County Commissioners to remove it. Once the road is vacated there will be no further upkeep and the adjacent landowners are concerned about erosion. The Patry's are requesting that riprap be placed on the north end of the road to prevent further erosion. It is unclear who would fund this. Counselor Nye stated that there are three solutions to be explored:

- a. The road can be vacated as it currently is. However this could create some liability issues.
- b. The townships involved could be contacted about doing something to prevent further erosion on the road. However it is uncertain that either township would be willing to fund this.
- c. The adjacent landowner's can have a meeting to determine what could be done with their best interests in mind.

John Waltner stated that the bridge most likely needs to be removed. However, even if neither of the townships is willing to do any work on the road to prevent further erosion, he believes the road still needs to be vacated. Mr. Lutes said that it is not likely that any taxpayer dollars will be spent to do anything to a road that is going to be vacated. The Commissioners agreed that it would be beneficial for both County Commissions and possibly the townships to view the road.

2. The Regional REAP Water Conference will be held on May 23 at Wellington High School. Byron Warta, John Waltner, and Commissioner Westfall will attend.
3. The Newton City Commissioners would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Harvey County Commissioners to discuss economic development.
4. A retirement reception for Dorothy Smith, a long time employee of the Appraiser's Office, will be held on May 31.
5. Commissioner Westfall received copies of the new FEMA flood maps.
6. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that patching continues on South Hertzler Road in addition to a project out by West Park. Anthony Spencer, Road & Bridge employee, is back to work today after an extended illness. The Commissioners asked to be able to look at the tractor provided by AGCO for mowing. The water tank truck purchased in Louisiana has been picked up and they are very pleased with it.
7. Byron Warta reported that progress on the airport runway is continuing on schedule.
8. T. Walton reported that in 2011 they did a needs assessment for the detention center that pointed out that they had been on a deferred maintenance program, only fixing things when they broke. Some systems were failing, so they listed the items that needed to be addressed and the commission helped prioritize and implement repairs as funds were available. Total expenditures from the detention center for first quarter of 2013, not including juvenile detention costs was \$370,191.26. Total inmate revenues were \$310,611.06 with \$279,182.99 for federal prisoners and \$31,428.07 for other entity inmates. The cost to the county for the first quarter was \$59,580.02 or \$19,860.00 average cost per month. He challenged the commission to find a detention center operating at less cost per month. He informed the

commissioners that the federal inmate program brings in a lot of money and that if their population was reduced the expenses to the county would increase. He proposed that a portion of the federal inmate proceeds be allocated for detention center maintenance, as there are still a number of systems and problems that need to be repaired or replaced. Commissioner Westfall requested the population ratios of federal, city, and county inmates; he also asked if the 2011 plan had been updated to show what has been fixed and what still needs to be addressed. T. replied that he had not updated the plan yet, but that a number of the problems had already been addressed. Commissioner Hague agreed that a percentage of the federal inmate proceeds should be allocated to maintenance, but wanted to be sure that the commission would still have control of the expenditures. Anthony stated that a detention center capital improvement fund could be established with all the budget and purchasing controls of other funds. Sheriff Walton also reported that the jail population is down to 113 today.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

No items were presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$80,934.50 and handwritten checks in the amount of \$300.00 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Anthony Swartzendruber gave the Commissioners a short overview of the budgeting process for the 2014 year. He reminded them of the timeline and dates of special meetings.

Margaret Hermstein, Register of Deeds, presented the proposed 2014 budget. She reviewed the past year and how the office functioned with the extra traffic of the oil and gas industry. She made a request to hire a temporary person to work about eight hours every two weeks to do scanning. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

Lee Ann Daniels, IT Director, presented the proposed 2014 budget for the Data Processing Department. She reported that the AS400 unit was replaced during the 2012 year. She stated that she would like to consider setting up a "help desk" for employees to access to have a better record of help calls and streamline the process. She also proposed changing the website a little bit. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

The meeting recessed for lunch 12:10 p.m.

Becky Opland, Treasurer, presented the 2014 proposed budget for the Treasurer's Office. She asked for additional staff for the Driver's License Office. She is also concerned about the driver's license office being in a separate office in the building. She would like to have more visibility between the offices. Discussion was also held about possibly raising the fee for out of county license renewals. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

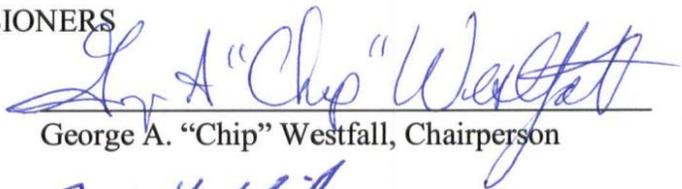
Craig Clough, Appraiser, presented the 2014 proposed budget for the Appraisal Office. He reported that the appraisals for AGCO from two appraisal firms have been received. AGCO has agreed to an appraisal of \$7,500,000 from the appraisal firm hired by the County. The appraisal firm hired by AGCO submitted an appraisal of \$6,850,000. Mr. Clough would like to have aerial photography done in 2016. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Joyce Truskett, Clerk, presented the proposed 2014 budget for both the County Clerk's Department and Elections. The gubernatorial primary and general elections will be held in 2014. Capital improvements for 2 storage units, three electronic poll books, and one computer were presented. Possible remodeling of the office was discussed. The Commissioners will take the budget under advisement.

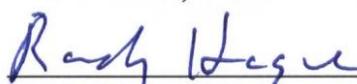
At 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege and personnel issues. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett were also in attendance for the session. At 2:35 p.m. all attendees with the exception of the Commissioners and John Waltner left the session. Executive session ended at 2:45 p.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Ron Krehbiel, Member


Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

