

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 20, 2013

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 20, 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 the U.S. flag on the courthouse lawn is flying again after a little over a week. Anthony Swartzendruber said that the pulley at the top of the flagpole broke and had to be repaired. The fire department assisted the repair with the use of an aerial truck.
2. Commissioner Hague requested that flowers be sent for the Keith DeHaven funeral.
3. Commissioner Hague reported that the KCCA water meeting he attended last week was very informative.
4. John Waltner informed the Commissioners that a request for a permit for M & B Pork for the construction of a mortality composting facility at 8807 S. Spring Lake Road has been submitted to the State of Kansas. No permitting is required by the county.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. The Council of Governments meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, has been postponed until June 12th.
2. Commissioner Westfall informed the Commission that he will not be able to attend the REAP WRC Annual Water Conference to be held on May 23 in Wellington. Byron Warta and Gina Bell, Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Director, will attend.
3. The joint Newton City/Harvey County Commission meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commission Room. The County Commission already has some budget presentations scheduled during that time that may need to be rescheduled.
4. The annual employee picnic will be held at West Park on Sunday afternoon, June 23rd.
5. Commissioner Westfall will be the featured speaker at the Newton Senior Center Thursday, June 6 from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May 13 commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. The Commissioners received a listing of all county-owned vehicles. The list did not include heavy equipment at the Road and Bridge Department and the Transfer Station. The list includes 51 vehicles.

2. Following discussion at an earlier meeting, the Commissioners requested an EDC cost benefit analysis of the tax abatement for Martin Machine and Welding located in Halstead. The Commissioners received a copy of the analysis today. The abatement is to be for five years, 100% abatement for the first three years and 50 % abatement for the last two years. Discussion was held regarding tiered abatements versus 100% abatements. Byron Warta reported that this was discussed at an EDC meeting and the reason for giving the 100% abatement was because the business had to increase their inventory and had to order in larger quantities to obtain a larger discount.
3. The meeting regarding “Millennials in the Work Force” will be held at Bethel College tomorrow from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
4. Former Sedgwick Mayor Keith DeHaven passed away over the weekend following a short illness. The funeral service will be held on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. at the Sedgwick First Christian Church.
5. A resolution to reappoint Craig Clough as County Appraiser will be presented at the next meeting. Appraisers are appointed every four years.
6. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, will not be able to attend the meeting this morning because of an electrical outage at the County Shop caused by storms passing through the area yesterday evening.
7. The trip to view Osage Road, which has been proposed to be vacated, will be delayed until the ground is dryer and the Commission is not so busy with budgets.
8. The Commissioners discussed the vehicle list which was provided by Anthony. Commissioner Krehbiel inquired as to whether there are vehicles that need to be sold or traded. Chairman Westfall suggested that because we have so many vehicles, it may be time to create a new employee position for a mechanic to do the maintenance and repair of county vehicles. Commissioner Hague suggested that the preventive maintenance, such as oil changes, could also be put out to bid. The Commissioners will further study this issue.
9. Counselor Greg Nye reported that there are three matters that will be discussed during executive session later today.
10. Byron Warta reported that the water meeting held in the Courthouse Community Room last Thursday went very well. He thanked the Administration Office for their hospitality. He also reported that Phase 2 of the airport runway reconstruction is running about a day ahead of schedule. All concrete has now been laid for this phase, and the contractor will now start the marking. This phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2. He also reported that there has been an increase of fuel sales due to several crop dusters operating in this area.
11. Sheriff T. Walton reported that they worked a meth lab in the City of Newton last week which is the second meth lab they have worked in the last month. Deputy Pfautz, who is a fairly new deputy, was involved in a successful car chase. The Department also took possession of 13 goats wandering at the intersection of NW 12th and River Park Road. It has not yet been determined who the owner is. He also reported that the computers have been down at the Detention Center and the Sheriff’s Office on Sunday. They will be hiring two new jailers for the Detention Center this week. The population at the jail is 124 at this time.

12. Leo Stahly, Darlington Township Officer, requested that the county place a speed limit sign on SW 48th Street west of Kansas Avenue. He also stated that the intersection at 125th Street and south Spencer is a dangerous intersection and should have stop signs on Spencer for north and south traffic. The Commissioners will direct Jim Meier to conduct a traffic study and also check with Sedgwick County to make sure they are agreeable with the placement of a stop sign at that intersection.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$103,136.27 and handwritten checks in the amount of \$18,696.50 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission took a short break at 9:55 a.m.

Lynnette Redington, Health Department Director, informed the Commission that the Healthy Harvey Coalition received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 per year for three years. Lynnette introduced Hillary Dopfel, who has been hired to serve as the coordinator of the Coalition. She will work 12 hours per week. They are focusing in the City of Newton in the beginning and then branch out into the other communities. A leadership board has been formed and they meet once a month by conference call. They are requesting that one of the Commissioners serve on the board. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to appoint Commissioner Hague to serve on the Coalition. Chairman Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Chairman Westfall informed Lynnette that it was announced at the KCCA meeting that the state will no longer fund County Health Departments to do STD testing. Lynnette also updated the Commissioners on the collaboration of Prairie View, Health Ministries, and the Health Department. The State of Kansas is holding regional listening sessions about collaborations such as this. The session in this region will be held in Wichita at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex on Wednesday, June 26th from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided so those attending need to make reservations.

Gina Bell, Director of Planning, Zoning, & Environmental, presented the proposed 2014 budget. The secretary of the department now works 5 hours per day and is no longer a jointly shared full-time position with the Emergency Management Department. Also included in the budget is a request for a new computer. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Gina also explained the new FEMA flood maps that were received last week. The maps are basically for the area around Halstead and Sedgwick. She is in the process of reviewing the maps to determine what changes have occurred. It does not appear that the LIDAR information was used to map the actual floodway. The maps are not yet final.

Bob Cheney, Noxious Weed Director, presented the proposed 2014 budget. The Weed Department sprays for townships upon request, and sprays around stop signs and along roads that the county is responsible. During the winter months they cut brush and trees. They also sell chemical for the control of noxious weeds on a cost share basis. The budget includes a slight increase in chemical supplies. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, presented the proposed 2014 budget for the Emergency Management Department. He gave a brief review of what the department does and what his responsibilities are. He explained that he has started meeting with USD #373 and the City of Newton to discuss crisis management. Lonnie serves on the KAC Board as the representative for the Emergency Management Association. He is also the current chairman of the Whitewater River Consolidated Fire District. The proposed budget includes a capital outlay request of \$32,500 for the purchase of a new vehicle, and \$1,500 for the purchase of a laptop computer. The budget also includes a supplemental request for an additional employee. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Courtney Becker, Director of 911, presented the 2014 proposed budget for 911 Communications. He explained that the first priority is always keeping all the equipment updated. The budget includes \$11,000 for the purchase of the pickup currently used by Emergency Management, and \$1,000 for the purchase of portable batteries for the communications vehicle. Courtney explained that equipment replacement is on a scheduled yearly rotation. The budget also reflects a shared secretarial position with the Emergency Management Department. The position is a full-time position paid half by the Communications Department and half by Emergency Management. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Kass Miller, East Park Supervisor, presented the proposed 2014 budget for East Park and Camp Hawk. The East Park budget includes an increase in mower maintenance and vehicle maintenance. It also includes \$10,500 for the purchase of a new mower, \$1,500 for the purchase of a rotary tiller, and \$2,750 for the upgrade of the kitchen in Volunteer Hall. The Camp Hawk budget includes \$25,000 for the purchase of a pickup truck, \$2,175 for a kitchen upgrade in the shelter, and \$35,000 for the replacement of roofs on all buildings including the camp residence, but excepting the well house. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Shannon Metz, West Park Supervisor, and Carol Dilts, Ranger, presented the proposed 2014 budget for West Park. The budgeted amount for gas and electricity is decreased because of the rental of the park residence. Included in the budget is a request to renovate the shower houses in the amount of \$20,800, running a water supply to the east side of the park in the amount of \$9,450, and the construction of a storage attachment for the West Park Community Building in the amount of \$2,000, and \$40,000 for the purchase of a tractor. The Commissioners will take the proposed budget under advisement.

Shannon received a request to scatter the ashes of a deceased person who was a frequent camper and supporter of West Park. This included a request that the County pay for a memorial plaque or tree. The Commissioners agreed that it is not a problem to scatter ashes or place a plaque or plant a tree, but since the person was not a county employee, the county should not be responsible for the cost. This issue will be presented to the Parks Advisory Board for them to first render a decision.

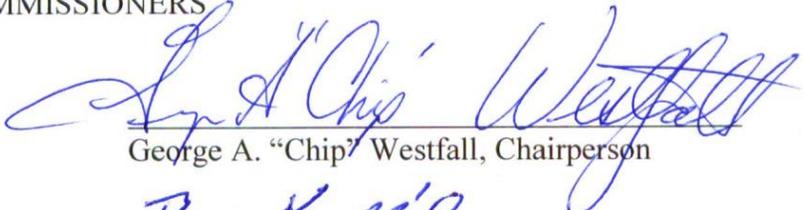
At 2:20 p.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett were also in attendance for the session. Executive session ended at 2:35 p.m. with no action being taken.

At 2:35 p.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, Joyce Truskett, Craig Clough, and Glenda Mills were also in attendance for the session. Executive session ended at 2:50 p.m. with no action being taken.

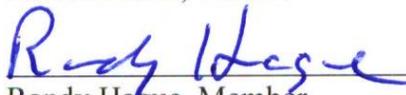
At 2:50 p.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett were also in attendance for the session. Executive session ended at 3:00 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

