

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 23, 2013

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on December 23, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

There were no items added to the agenda.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. A Public Private Partnership meeting will be held at Charlie's Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. on January 10, 2014.
2. The regular REAP meetings have been changed to every other month on a Friday at either 7:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.
3. An Aviation Commission meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014.
4. The Commission will change leadership during the January 13, 2014 Commission meeting.
5. The Commissioners have been invited by Eugene Wendling to attend the annual Valentines dinner at the Sacred Heart Church in Halstead on February 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of the December 16 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. The Commissioners received information on Colorado legislation that was passed in an effort to curb metal thefts. One provision of the legislation formed a metal theft task force, not only to deal with the thefts, but to educate all parties involved, including industry representatives, law enforcement, cities and counties. This legislation could serve as a model for other states and municipalities.
2. The Commissioners received more information on the possible repeal of the mortgage registration fee. Anthony Swartzendruber provided updated information on the possible impact on Harvey County. The Commissioners also received a copy of an editorial written by Brad Dillon published in the Hutchinson News. The Commissioners signed a letter to be sent to the three area legislators, requesting that they reject the repeal of this fee.
3. The Commissioners signed a letter written to Rebecca Floyd, Executive Vice President of the KDFFA, in approval of loan support provided to Brice and Kelsey Wiggers from the "Beginning Farmer" project. Chairman Westfall requested that a copy of the letter be sent to Farm Bureau.
4. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve **Resolution 2013-24**, cancelling certain county warrants. Fourteen warrants will be cancelled. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Commissioner Hague suggested that county warrant checks contain a message that reminds recipients that the checks are cashable for 90 days only.

5. Kim Rowley, Director of Parks, presented an agreement between Harvey County Board of Commissioners and the Boy Scouts of America to hold the annual Scout Jamboree at West Park on January 17 – 19, 2014. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. The Commissioners have received several complaints about the condition of county roads following the ice and snow storm that occurred over the weekend. Several employees in the Road and Bridge Department are off work using vacation hours that needed to be used before the end of the year. Discussion was held regarding the county policy that limits employee carryover of not more than 96 hours of vacation. John said that allowances are made upon request when this type of unusual situation occurs. Kevin Schmidt, Road and Bridge Supervisor came to the meeting to report on the department's response to the storm. He said that a brine solution was spread on the roads prior to the storm, but he said that it didn't seem to have much effect on reducing the ice build-up. The initial part of the storm contained freezing rain, so the brine may have been diluted by that. At the current time, there are three salt and sand spreaders and 2 blades operating in the county. They will work as many roads as possible today. He said there are five employees from the department out on leave.
7. Sheriff Walton reported that there weren't as many slide-offs and wrecks as typical with this type of storm. John and the Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the efforts by the Sheriff's office.
8. Byron Warta reported that it is rumored that one of the businesses at the airport is seeking to expand.
9. Anthony reported that he has received the sales tax figures for December and that collections will be up at least 1% for the year.
10. Discussion was held on the new Commercial vehicle registration system.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$95,093.19 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:00 a.m. the Commission took a break for a period of 15 minutes.

At 10:15 a.m. Gina Bell, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented a conditional use permit to operate a retreat center for small groups in an existing residence located at 813 K-196 Highway. All adjacent landowners were notified and no objections were received. The Regional Planning Commission considered the permit at a meeting held on December 3 and approved the request on a vote of 9 to 0. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the conditional use permit. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Rich Hanley, Director of Department on Aging, introduced Dawn Warrington, who is the new RSVP Coordinator. Dawn has developed a program called "Harvey County Spring into Action."

The objective of the program is to collect items from January 20 to March 27, 2014 to send to overseas military, VA hospitals, and Navy ships. RSVP volunteers will then coordinate and pack the articles which will then be shipped. It is hoped that county businesses will donate funds to offset the shipping costs.

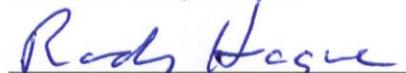
Anthony Swartzendruber presented changes to the personnel policy regarding workplace violence, weapons, and concealed carry. The new policy will allow employees to carry a weapon only if they have a concealed carry permit. The weapon must be carried on the employee's person, not stored in a desk or purse, etc. The policy specifically prohibits the carrying of weapons in county vehicles. A second change to the personnel manual was also presented. This change is a wording clarification dealing with the payment or reimbursement of travel expenses to employees. Commissioner Hague made a motion to authorize both personnel manual changes with a change in the wording to indicate that weapons are not allowed to be carried by employees during the operation of county motor vehicles and machinery. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson


Ron Krehbiel, Member


Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:


Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

