

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

**November 25, 2013**

Chairman Westfall called the regular meeting of the Board of Harvey County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. All three Commissioners were present.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Chairman Westfall requested that an acknowledgement be sent to the Boy Scout troop that built the kiosk at the East Lake Nature Trail.
2. Commissioners Westfall and Hague attended the EOC Emergency drill that was held last Thursday afternoon. It went very well and was very informative.
3. The new Director of Parks was introduced at the Park Board Meeting held last Tuesday evening. She will also be introduced at the Employee Christmas luncheon on December 9th.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. A retirement party for John Carder, Hesston City Administrator, will be held on Friday, December 20 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
2. An advisory board meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Osage Room at Prairie View on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes of the November 18 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2013-23**, designating public holidays for 2014. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
2. Gina Bell, Director of Planning & Zoning, presented recommendations for the appointments of Lynne Vigil and Duane Miles to the Harvey County Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
3. Anthony Swartzendruber presented a “Determination of Level of Review” for a microloan in the amount of \$7,500 for Those Blasted Signs located at 304 N. Main in Newton. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the microloan and give the Chairman the authority to sign. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
4. Anthony presented a release of mortgage from the EDC following the payoff of a microloan by David Blocher. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the release of mortgage. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. Anthony presented the sales tax report for November. Harvey County collections were down 5.51% in comparison to the same period in 2012. However, the total collections for the year 2013 are up 1.37%.

6. Anthony reported that Judge Richard Walker and Court Trustee, Harold Schorn, met with John Waltner and requested that the Trustee be able to share the office space occupied by CASA. The space contains 2 offices and a reception area. Chairman Westfall received an e-mail from Eric Litweiler, CASA Director, explaining in detail how the office works and strongly recommended that the office continue to be used for the purposes of CASA only.
7. Matt Schmidt, Director of Health Ministries, presented a proposed letter of support for a grant application to receive continued funding as a Federally Qualified Health Center. Commissioner Hague made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
8. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the implementation of the Blue Horse software system has begun in the Detention Center. The Commissioners also received a copy of a letter from the McPherson County Sheriff thanking the Harvey County Sheriff's Department for sending the Emergency Response Team to assist with an armed standoff in McPherson County on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
9. Byron Warta reported that fuel sales revenues at the airport continue to be good. He also reported that he attended the Kansas Water Authority meeting that was held last Friday. A preliminary calendar, which will hopefully be completed by May of 2014, is being laid out to comply with the Governor's 50-year water plan. Byron gave the Commissioners a prospect report from the Harvey County EDC, detailing activity from September 19<sup>th</sup> through November 20<sup>th</sup>.
10. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, thanked the Commissioners for attending the Emergency Operations Center drill.
11. It was reported that Michelle Botkin has been hired to be the secretary for the Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Office. She will attend the appreciation dinner tomorrow evening.
12. Lynnette Redington confirmed that Newton Medical Center will contribute \$25,000 to the co-location and collaboration of Prairie View, Health Ministries, and the Harvey County Health Department.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$136,948.53 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Jason Verbeckmoes, John Gilbert, and Robin Reischneider presented a proclamation to initiate the launch of a Harvey County Youth Council, coordinated by Mirror, Inc. The council will enhance collaboration among the Social Norms Teams and the Drug Free Youth Coalition. Commissioner Hague made a motion to support and approve the formation of a Harvey County Youth Council. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Lynnette Redington, Director of the Harvey County Health Department, presented the 2013 Kids Count report which indicates that nearly one in four Kansas children are living in poverty. The report is developed by the Kansas Action for Children. For Harvey County, the report indicates that

more mothers are receiving adequate or better than adequate prenatal care, there is a decrease in low birth weight babies, and the percent of 9<sup>th</sup> graders who graduate four years later has increased. However, there are some areas that Harvey County could improve on.

- More slots need to be available in the Head Start programs
- The percentage of mothers without a high school diploma has increased
- The number of children living below 100% poverty rate has increased
- The immunization rate for children has decreased

Lynnette reported that the Health Department has contracted with Prairie View to provide case management services for Maternal and Infant clients beginning December 10<sup>th</sup>. They have also contracted with the Sedgwick County lab for STD and HIV testing. Lynnette also reported that Darla Stonehouse, Assistant Director of the Health Department has submitted her resignation.

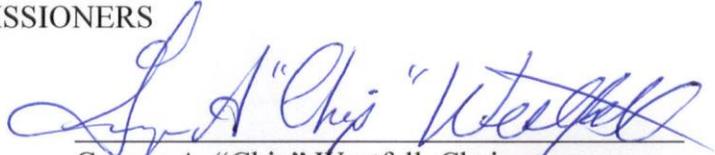
Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, presented information on the ongoing search for an Engineering Consultant. He developed a rating system according to the needs of the Department. Qualifications were solicited from five engineering firms that are located within this area. Three firms responded with Statements of Qualification and were then interviewed by Jim. Following these interviews, and after evaluation of each of the firms according to the rating system, he made a recommendation to name Mid Kansas Engineering Consultants as the Engineering Consultant for Harvey County. Jim also provided a fee schedule comparing two of the firms and Poe and Associates, the former County Engineer. He stated that it would be extremely advantageous to name an engineer as soon as possible. Chairman Westfall requested that MKEC make a presentation to the Commission during the Commission meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. A preliminary draft of a contract will be prepared.

Anthony presented the final documents for the Capital Improvement Program Policy and the Debt Management Policy. He explained modifications to the policies as discussed after the preliminary drafts were reviewed at last week's commission meeting. Discussion was held on the percentage of debt to be set at 85% or 80%. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the policy setting the maximum debt percentage at 80%. The motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the policy with a maximum debt percentage of 82.5%. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion as negotiated by the chairman. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners chose not to meet the Monday after Thanksgiving unless there is business that needs to be dealt with. The Commissioners agreed that the Finance Director or the County Clerk will have the authority to pay bills as necessary before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

