

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

**February 3, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 3, 2014 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Westfall gave a legislative review of what occurred in the legislature last week. There has been activity on several bills, including the gun bill, the airfares bill, the conservation district bill, a bill dealing with private internet and cable companies, and the revised fixtures bill which will affect concrete companies only.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Craig Clough, and Commissioner Hague will attend KAC Government Day at the Capital on February 5 if weather permits.
2. The annual Valentine's Dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on February 8 in Halstead.

Minutes of the January 27, 2014 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that Harvey County received an invoice billing of \$.77 for the county's portion of legal fees for the past month for the lawsuit regarding the oil and gas depletion trust fund.
2. The Commissioners received information from NACO on the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA has redrawn flood maps which will impact many property owners in the county. However, Congress has postponed a very significant premium rate increase that was to take effect in 2014. Gina Bell, Director of Planning and Zoning, explained how the removal of subsidies will affect landowners. If a house has a basement and is now in a flood plain because of the new FEMA maps, the premium rates could be significantly higher. She also reported that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening has been postponed because of the predicted snowstorm. She and John have met with the people who have a horse racing track in the county and given them a list of conditions that will need to be met.
3. John, Anthony Swartzendruber, and Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, Lake Township board members, and Lakin Township board members met with Bob Seiler of the Eagle Drainage District to discuss proposals of how to route water runoff in the Harvey County portion of the drainage district to the existing Eagle Drainage structures. The proposal is to move the water along the north ditch of 125<sup>th</sup> Street to River Park Road, under River Park and then empty into the structure that will take it to the Eagle Drainage Ditch. There is a possibility that the Drainage District will ask for assistance from the County with dirt work, etc.

4. Margaret Hermstein gave an update on SB298, which calls for the repeal of the current mortgage registration fee. This would have a significant impact on revenues for counties. She thanked the Commissioners for their leadership in opposition to this bill.
5. Roy Patton, Director of Solid Waste, reported that the semi tractor used to haul trash from the Transfer Station to the Reno County Landfill, either has cylinder problems or a head problem. An overhaul of the cylinders would cost approximately \$8,000, and could be \$11,000 if there are problems in the head. He stated that the frame of the semi has significant wear and tear on it. To purchase another used unit would cost approximately \$30,000. He proposed that money that is budgeted to purchase a new grinder be used to replace the semi tractor instead. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of repairing the existing truck or purchasing another used unit. Roy will obtain specific pricing and warranty information for purchasing another used unit and pricing and warranty information for the repair of the existing unit.
6. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2014-5**, authorizing the sale of a 2003 Ford Ranger that is no longer used by the Parks Department. The truck is to be sold on the Purple Wave Auction site. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
7. Kim Rowley, Director of Parks, gave an overview of the Scout Rendezvous held at West Park. There are some issues that need to be dealt with for future reference. This is a Boy Scout event and they are in charge. The Boy Scouts are to handle any difficulties that arise, not the West Park staff. There was also a discrepancy in how many scouts were in attendance and who paid and who did not. In the future, the Scouts would like to close the Park to anyone other than Scouts. She will review all issues with the Boy Scouts.
8. Commissioner Hague reported that he has had three phone calls from citizens opposed to the new facility fee implemented by the county treasurer.
9. Anthony requested direction from the commission on purchasing a vehicle for Administration and the Appraiser's Office. Discussion was held about purchasing the vehicles by bid or whether to purchase them using the State contract, which does not allow local vendors to bid. Following a discussion, the Commission directed Anthony to try to find used vehicles that would meet the needs of each of the departments.
10. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the Sheriff's Department has made the proper preparations in anticipation of the predicted snowstorm.
11. Byron Warta informed the Commission that the scheduled meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss water issues will primarily be an informational meeting. The final 50 year water plan will not be completed until June of this year.
12. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, presented a 2013 year-end report for the Road and Bridge Department. Jim thanked Heidi Huber for her assistance in putting the presentation together. Harvey County maintains 280 bridges that are required to be inspected every two years. There is one bridge on North Burmac that is in the beginning processes of replacement. The new bridge will be replaced with prestressed beams and a poured concrete deck. There are 820 culverts maintained by the county. In-house inspections of these culverts are not done regularly, but need to

be done soon. Jim gave information on how the department handled the significant snowstorm in February and flooding and wind storms in the summer. He also explained the Street sign project, the Walton street project, and the new equipment purchased in 2013.

13. Bob Cheney, Director of Noxious Weed, gave the 2013 Annual Noxious Weed Progress Report. The report included both revenues and expenditures for the department and the estimated acres of noxious weeds in the County, both on county land and private land. Treatment summaries for Bindweed, Johnson grass, Musk Thistle, and Sericea Lespedeza were presented. The state requires that surveys for noxious weeds be conducted on a specified number of acres each year and the reports of those surveys were also presented. He also reported that, although he is not certain of the cause, less chemical is being purchased by individuals on a cost share basis. The 2014 Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan for county land, state highways, cities, private lands, and townships was also presented including the types of noxious weeds, the treatment methods, and time of treatment. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2013 and the Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan for 2014. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

With the exception of a check to the Newton Police Department in the amount of \$280.00, warrant checks in the amount of \$430,930.56 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Executive Director of Harvey County Economic Development Council, gave a report on recent successful economic development projects, and potential prospects. EDC board members Ray Penner, Dennis LeFevre, and Byron Warta attended the meeting for the presentation. Five counties have partnered to form the Central Kansas WorkReady Corridor. This group which is comprised of Harvey, Marion, McPherson, Reno, and Saline Counties has implemented a program in which job applicants can obtain a certificate to present to potential employers that gives them proof of the applicant's skills. This is a successful program which continues to grow. Mickey also reported that a job fair will be held tomorrow for the new RedGuard Company that has located in Halstead. A community wide job fair will be held in March or April. Both the EDC and the KLP have new websites. The EDC has sent numerous letters to realtors in both the Wichita and Kansas City areas. Information has also been sent nationally and internationally.

At 12:05 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 55 minutes to discuss economic development. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, Joyce Truskett, Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Ray Penner, Dennis LeFevre, and Byron Warta. Executive session ended at 1:00 p.m. with no action being taken.

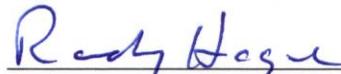
Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator and CFO, presented the 2013 year end unaudited financial report for Harvey County. Comparisons of valuation from the last several years were reviewed. The mill levy was fairly steady from 2006 to 2010, but has increased since then. The number of levied funds has decreased, and the general fund, in turn, increased. Of the revenues received by the county, 79% comes from taxes. The remainder comes from licenses and permits, charges for service, and mortgage registration fees. General fund revenues for 2013 increased by 2.3%, and expenditures increased by 6%. Personnel costs, which make up 60% of the general fund budget, increased by 4.7% from 2012. Operations increased 5.1% and capital improvements increased 60%. The general fund ended the year with a balance of \$3,631,051 which is an increase of \$738,544. Anthony explained the reasons for the increase. He stated that he would encourage the Commissioners to consider raising the fund balance requirements, as encouraged by the bond rating agency, but it would be better to wait and see what happens with the mortgage registration fee in the legislature. The County could lose \$315,000 in revenue per year if this is repealed. Anthony also gave reports for the Road & Bridge Department, the Noxious Weed Department, the Solid Waste Department, Extension Council, Elderly Services Program, Technology Fund, 911 Combined Fund, 911 Wireless Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Bond & Interest Fund, Elderly Services Transportation, Special Alcohol & Drug Fund, Special Parks Alcohol & Drug Fund, Diversion Fund, and the Road Impact Fund.

Commissioner Westfall made a motion to adjust the Administrator's pay salary to \$90,500 beginning on February 2, 2014, subject to review again on February 1, 2015. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson

  
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Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

  
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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

