

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

**September 29, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on September 29, 2014 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he attended the ribbon-cutting at Red Guard in Halstead last week, and he and Commissioner Hague also attended the Burrton Fall Festival. He also spoke with the contractor who is repairing the bridge on NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street near West Park and the repairs may be completed some time this week. There is additional debris collecting against the bridge that will need to be cleaned in order to prevent future damage. He also spoke with crews working on the Burmac Bridge. The completion date for that bridge is November 17.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The REAP Water Resources Committee meeting will be held at the Meridian Center at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 2.
2. John Waltner and Commissioner Westfall will attend a KDOT regional meeting in Hutchinson on Tuesday, September 30 to discuss future planning and projects.
3. Commissioner Westfall will be the featured speaker at a meeting of the Walton Lions Club on October 27.
4. A Disc Golf Tournament will be held at Camp Hawk on Saturday, October 4.

Minutes of the September 22, 2014 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that there will be a Berean Academy Cross Country meet held at East Park on Thursday, October 2. He also reported that they will continue seining the overflow tube at East Lake. They are placing Crappie back into the Lake. The employee picnic will be held on Sunday, October 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, announced that the Department has been awarded an additional grant in the amount of \$50,000 from tobacco settlement funds. The grant funds must be used to focus on physical activity and nutrition. The grant will be used to help develop a bike plan within the City of Newton. A request for additional funding from the City of Newton will be made to obtain needed additional funding.
3. Byron Warta reported that finishing touches are being completed on the ABI building at the Airport. He also reported that the floor in Hangar W is also now complete.
4. Sheriff T. Walton reported that they are currently working a bomb threat at the Community Corrections building located across the street from the Newton City

- Offices. He also reported that there have been increased numbers of deer versus car accidents. The United Way Chili Cook Off held last Saturday was very successful. Also held on Saturday was a “Drug Take Back Day,” where they collected 100 pounds of drugs for disposal. Sheriff Walton also commended Deputy Stan Kurtz for going above and beyond the call of duty when he helped an out-of-state elderly traveler who was confused and needed help. After the end of his shift, Deputy Kurtz drove the man to his home in Oklahoma to make sure he arrived home safely.
5. Anthony Swartzendruber gave the Commission a report of sales tax collections. Countywide collections were up 4.68% and third quarter collections were up 2.25%. Year-to-date collections are up 3.99%. He also reported on the progress of the Courthouse energy upgrade. All hard ceilings have been removed and the last asbestos abatement will take place this weekend. Installation of piping, ductwork, and electrical will begin in the mechanical room in the basement this week. New windows will be installed on the north side of the Courthouse in approximately four to five weeks.
  6. A discussion was held regarding the increase in road salt prices.
  7. John reminded the Commissioners of the disk golf tournament to be held at Camp Hawk and the fly-in at the Newton City/County Airport, both of which will be held on October 4.
  8. The Commissioners received a copy of an article about a Bethel College student who interned at the Health Department and is now changing her career choice because of her experience there.
  9. The hours at the Health Department will be changing to more adequately accommodate the needs of their patrons. During the month of October, the Department will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. In November, they will return to regular Wednesday hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  10. John reported that Kevin Schmidt’s mother passed away. Kevin is the supervisor at the Road and Bridge Department.
  11. Craig Clough, Appraiser, sent John a note last week that one of the items that will be dealt with by the KAC legislative committee is the distribution of fees that have been paid by motor carriers and have not been distributed back to the counties.
  12. The Commissioners received a copy of a letter to be sent to Willis Heck, the County representative to the US Highway 50 Committee, in support of the efforts of the Committee to advocate for enhanced safety, convenience, and increased freight transport by making four-lane improvements to US Highway 50 throughout Kansas. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the letter to be sent. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  13. Kass Miller reported that he and John Waltner met with Rod Nicholson, President of Prestressed Concrete and a representative of the Rhoades Foundation. He has indicated that the foundation is interested in assisting with funding for improvements at the Parks. Kass suggested that the bathrooms and shower structures at West Park be replaced with a prestressed structure. They could then also be used as a storm shelter. Mr. Nicholson indicated that Prestressed Concrete would also like to help with the project. Commissioner Westfall suggested that Kass contact Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, to see if there are any FEMA funds that might be available for the project since it will also serve as a storm shelter.

14. Rich Hanley, Director of the Department on Aging, opened discussion on county policy following an employee drug test results that show a negative dilute specimen. He stated that the Reno County Commission voted to retest the employee if the first report shows a negative dilute specimen. Counselor Greg Nye stated that whatever decision the board makes, all employees are to be treated the same. Commissioner Krehbiel expressed concern that the County is more concerned with punishing an employee rather than trying to help them if they have a drug problem. Commissioner Hague stated that he doesn't believe changing this policy is punishing an employee. Commissioner Westfall believes the policy of retesting an employee because of a negative dilute specimen essentially gives the employee a second chance. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the change in policy, countywide, and retest any employee if the results of a drug test indicate a dilute negative specimen. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed on a vote of 2 ayes and 1 nay, with Commissioner Krehbiel dissenting.
15. Jim Meier reported that he talked to Hutchinson Salt this morning and they have no salt available. Therefore, he will pursue a contract with a company in Lyons, Kansas for the purchase of the salt the county will need for the winter. He also reported that they have removed approximately 24 tons of dead load material from a bridge on SW 84<sup>th</sup> street. Darlington Township has been contacted and will grade material away from the bridge to smooth out the approaches and eliminate the difference in road height and bridge height. Jim also reported that the road sealing on NE 60<sup>th</sup> will have to be deferred until next year. There is a problem with machine availability with the company who was awarded the contract. The company has agreed to do the patching prior to the sealing. It will be an early 2015 project.
16. Byron Warta reminded the Commissioners that there are three weekends during the month of October where there will be activities occurring at the airport, including an EAA Fly-in, and the Boy Scouts.

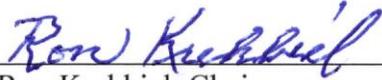
#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

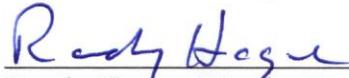
Tom Alstrom, Superintendent of Halstead USD #440, expressed concerns about the condition of County Road 801 between Halstead and Bentley. This is a bus route for the school district and approximately 400 students per day are traveling that road on buses. The road has cracked and is in very poor condition. Because of the unusual deterioration of the road, the County Engineering firm has evaluated it and has recommended how the road should be repaired. The repair process is very slow and tedious. The County Road and Bridge Department began repairs and were able to repair only 1 ½ miles before having to re-locate to another road that had to be repaired before the winter season. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent, said they are hoping to return to the patching on CR 801 before winter weather intervenes. Once the patching on the road is completed, it is scheduled to be overlaid. Mr. Alstrom stated that this a major road, important not only for school bus travel, but for economic development as well. The priority level for the repair needs to be elevated. He also said there was a great deal of speculation on why the repair of the road was stopped and he would appreciate more communication between the County and the School District and then he has the ability to communicate with most of the people that travel the road.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$126,129.23 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned 10:20 a.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

