

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

**July 20, 2015**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on July 20, 2015 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Hague called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioners Krehbiel requested a status update of the condition of SW 84<sup>th</sup> St. west of Halstead Rd. The crushed concrete material that was used to fill potholes on the road contained metal which is causing some flat tires. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, stated that some grading work has been completed and they are running a magnetic device over the road to try to remove the metal from the road.
2. Commissioner Westfall asked if the front lawn of the courthouse had been seeded yet. John Waltner responded that the grading work has been completed, but maintenance staff still needs to make some repairs to the sprinkler system and seeding will occur next week.
3. Commissioner Hague reported that he was contacted by some citizens concerned about City of Newton and Harvey County cooperation. It has been reported that the County is not willing to cooperate with the City of Newton. Commissioner Hague is unsure of the basis for these comments, stating that the only issue that he is aware of that the County did not agree with was the City proposed expansion of the current Law Enforcement Center. John stated the he is concerned about the perception of a deteriorating relationship with the City. John and the commissioners agreed that they would like to continue fostering positive relationships between the County and all of the cities in the county. Newton citizen Wayne Valentine stated that citizens want more cooperation between all entities for possible cost savings.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The 4H picnic is scheduled for July 21 at Athletic Park.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that he will attend the Harvey County 911 board meeting on Thursday, July 23 at 9 a.m.
3. Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach is scheduled to visit the Harvey County Clerk's office at 4:30 p.m. on August 6.

Minutes of the July 13 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes of the July 14 Commission special budget work session were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that staff is working on the issues on SW 84<sup>th</sup> St. He stated that it is an unfortunate situation for the residents using that roadway. Jim Meier reported that the crushed concrete material had been piled in the county yard for a long time and it was his decision to use it as base fill for the potholes and washed out areas of the road. The material was not exposed to the road surface, but metal pieces in the crushed

- concrete have been working up to the surface.
2. John presented a letter from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) in response to the request to assign SCKEDD as the administrator for weatherization services in Harvey County. The letter states that the request is being denied unless the current administrator, ECKAN requests the change or reassignment to their service area. The letter suggests that SCKEDD and ECKAN work together on this matter.
  3. John reported the contract that was awarded to Resnik Motors, now Kranz Family Inc., for a van for the Sheriff Department is past the 90 to 120 day period for delivery of the vehicle. The Sheriff will be sending notification to the vendor allowing 2 weeks to resolve the issue or the contract will be revoked.
  4. John reported that the KLP is not included on the list of finalists for a KDOT transload facility.
  5. John presented the second reading of a recommendation for appointment to the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board for Brandon Will. He reported that Brandon volunteered for this new appointment for the term July 2015 to July 2018. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to appoint Brandon Will to the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  6. John presented a Notice of Hearing for the request by Budde Enterprises, Inc. to grant exemption from ad valorem taxes for an expansion at their facility located at 4504 NE 36<sup>th</sup> St. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to publish the Notice of Hearing to be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 10. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  7. John presented a Notice of Budget Hearing for the public budget hearing regarding the 2016 Harvey County budget. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to publish the Notice of Budget Hearing to be held at 10:30 a.m. on August 3. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
  8. Gary Denny, Emergency Management Director, presented a summary report of the 11 applicants for the FEMA public assistance project from the flooding event. The total amount is \$355,346.32 which is well above the minimum threshold. He reported that FEMA should announce their decision on the declaration later today.
  9. Rollin Schmidt, Solid Waste Director, stated that the C & D landfill will be full in October, but a verbal OK has been received from KDHE to extend the contours with C&D material on top of the south cell of the closed MSW landfill. His department has been working on creating roads to the site.
  10. Byron Warta distributed the current EDC prospect report. He reported that Tribine has announced their intent to build a 12,600 sq. ft. facility at the Newton Industrial Park to build harvesters. He also reported that Stinger, Inc. has been granted a tax abatement by the City of Burrton and will complete the negotiations to purchase the former IMMI building in Burrton to produce their hay equipment.
  11. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that a mud volleyball tournament was held over the weekend. He also reported that he and John met with Rod Nicholson, Prestressed Concrete, President, and were informed that the West Park bathroom facility should be done by the end of the year. The bathroom will be constructed with prestressed concrete walls using the same design as the bathroom facilities at East Park. The funding for this project will be almost entirely provided by the Rhoades Foundation.

12. Anthony Swartzendruber distributed copies of the final recommended 2016 budget.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$444,566.84 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Louis Funk, Bartlett & West representative and Dan Hess, Ditch Diggers presented detailed plans for the North Newton to Hesston sewer line project. Louis reported that construction will begin soon. A pump station will be constructed near the elevator north of the RR tracks and 8" PVC pipe will be laid from that location to the Hesston waste treatment facility. The pipe will be laid a minimum of 4' deep about 15' to 20' from the road in the right-of-way on the NE side of Hesston Rd/Old 81 Hwy. The system will pump 200-250 gallons a minute at 100 PSI, but is rated and is capable of handling a much higher flow and pressure. The plan is to maintain a connection to the City of Newton sewer system as a failover in case of emergency, negotiations are still in process.

Don Gruver, Communications Director, introduced Scott Ekberg, Kansas 911 Liaison, to give an update and answer questions regarding the upgrade to the NG911 system. Scott stated that the upgrade is not really optional as the current system was developed in the 1940's and 50's. The NG911 system will bring emergency communications in the County and State into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new technology will utilize geospatial routing using the GPS location of cellular phones instead of the civic address of the tower the call is received from. It will also allow the receipt of text messaging. He stated that the new \$18,000 flat fee cost per workstation includes building a reserve fund for future upgrades. Harvey County currently is licensed for 5 workstations which will cost the County \$90,000 per year. Current 911 fees of \$.53 per phone per month will not completely cover the increased costs to the county. Scott reported that the Kansas Statute allows for the fee to go up to \$.60 and that a KAR is being submitted to increase the fee to \$.60 effective Jan 1, 2016. Don stated 911 fee revenues have been decreasing each year and that the \$.07 increase will only generate about \$25,000 for Harvey County.

At 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss attorney/client privilege and pending litigation. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye and Rick Piepho. Executive session ended at 11:55 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Randy Hague  
Randy Hague, Chairperson

Ron Krehbiel  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

George A. "Chip" Westfall  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:

Rick Piepho  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk