

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

**May 18, 2015**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 18, 2015 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Hague called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner commended John Waltner, Administrator for being the recipient of the Hugo Award from the WSU Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs.
2. Commissioner Westfall stated that he was contacted by a representative from the Newton Model Aircraft Club about using East Lake for model float planes. They will contact the Parks Board and Kass Miller, Parks Director and are also researching the FAA regulations.
3. Commissioner Westfall also reported that the recent overlay project on NE 60<sup>th</sup> St from K-15 east to the County line looks and drives nice.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The groundbreaking ceremony for the YMCA will be held on May 21 at the site on the south side of Newton Medical Center complex.
2. The EDC dinner is scheduled for June 4 at 6:00 p.m. at West Park.
3. The groundbreaking ceremony for the bridge replacement project, 90% funded by KDOT, will be held on June 12 at bridge 20-Q.9 on N Anderson Rd, south of 96<sup>th</sup> St. Mike King, Kansas Secretary of Transportation will be attending.

Minutes of the May 11 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that owner of Hwa Davis Construction & Supply, Inc. commended Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent for being innovative and open to new road construction techniques and ideas.
2. John reported that he has been working with the City of Newton on scheduling a joint meeting. This will be the first joint meeting with the new City Commissioners. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 8 at 4:30 or 5:00 p.m.
3. John reported that the front lawn of the courthouse should be leveled and reseeded by the end of June. He also reported that with the courthouse renovations close to coming to an end, he and Anthony have been in discussions with PIGroup, Inc. about a possible maintenance agreement for monitoring and upkeep of the new mechanical systems. He stated that PIGroup, Inc. is the subcontractor that installed all of the new mechanical systems.
4. John reported that he and Lynnette Redington, Lorrie Kessler, Senator McGinn, Farm Bureau, Extension Council and others have been exploring the creation of the Harvey County Farm & Food Council. The purpose of the council is to promote Agribusiness and encourage citizens toward locally grown healthy food.

5. Gina Bell, Planning & Zoning, reported that the variances for the two tower projects were approved last week.
6. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that the Parks were busy over the weekend. He reported that the water rose quickly and is very high after the heavy rain on Saturday night at East Park and that some campers are now in the water. He showed pictures and reported on damages incurred to a grassy area at West Park during a bachelor party over the weekend, the offenders will repair the damages. He also reported that he spoke with the RC club about using East Lake for RC float planes, they will provide their own insurance and assured him that they would not interfere with fishermen.
7. Dawn Warrington, RSVP Coordinator, stated that her last day is Thursday, May 21. She thanked the commission for their support of RSVP during her tenure.
8. Byron Warta informed the commission that the KS Water Authority is reorganizing the regional groups or BAC's. He is not sure yet of the final plan.
9. Anthony Swartzendruber reported that the department budget hearings with the commissioners will begin next week and will continue each week for four more weeks.
10. Rick Piepho, County Clerk, reported that he is a member of the small group of election officials assisting the KS Secretary of State office in preparing the RFP for the statewide voter registration system contract. The 10 year contract for the current ELVIS system is expiring at the end of this year. The first meeting will be on May 21 in Topeka.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$863,851.59 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt Schmidt, Executive Director of Health Ministries, presented the annual report to the commission of the status and activities of Health Ministries Clinic. Matt reported that that the Healthcare Collaborative at the Pine St. location is now complete and that the proximity of having all of the entities in one location is helpful to all of the organizations and patients. He reported that Health Ministries had more than 2,600 patients from Harvey County with more than 9,000 visits, the majority of which had no insurance. He explained that in 2014 they changed to a flat fee structure which lowered most fees, but increased their collections. He also stated that dental and laboratory equipment was purchased and those services were expanded. They also added transportation services. He reported that they have begun the approval process for a clinic in Halstead that will include WIC services offered by the Harvey County Health Department. Commissioner Hague stated that he has heard only positive comments about the Healthcare Collaborative. The commissioners thanked Health Ministries for their service to the citizens of Harvey County.

Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, presented the proposed request for proposal (RFP) for an Electronic Health Records & Payment System (EHR). She stated that her department has already participated in a number of software demonstrations, but county policy requires an RFP for software purchases exceeding \$10,000. She reported that a grant for \$10,000 has been received for this purpose and that \$50,000 was included in the 2015 CIP budget for the system. She also reported that the system will be cloud based and will not require additional hardware. The RFP will be sent to at

least five vendors. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to proceed with the RFP as presented for the EHR. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 11:07 a.m. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 8 minutes to discuss pending litigation and attorney/client privilege. 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 11:15 a.m. with no action being taken.

John reported that Alta Township submitted an invoice for \$14,000 to the county for the repair of township roads that were affected during the Burmac Bridge replacement project. The invoice is for sand, rock and labor to fix and maintain the roads that they claim needed additional work due to increased traffic during the bridge replacement. They were initially told by Road & Bridge that no detour route would be posted, but that rock and sand could be provided upon request; the township did not request material from R & B. The commissioners agreed that they want to be fair with the township, but that only about 3 miles of road repair should be reimbursed. John and Jim Meier will meet with the township to discuss the issue.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m. to attend the Law Enforcement Officer Memorial ceremony and luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

*Rick Piepho*  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

*Randy Hague*  
Randy Hague, Chairperson

*Ron Krehbiel*  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

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