

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

**August 22, 2016**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on August 22, 2016 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel reported that he was contacted by Little Arkansas River Drainage District board member, Phil Schmitt who reported that the piece of equipment that was broken has been fixed. The equipment repair delayed the removal of the debris under the bridge near West Park on NW 36<sup>th</sup> St.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that the community auction conducted by the 4-H at the end of the Free Fair had 341 registered bidders with total sales of \$77,205.00. He thanked all of the bidders and attendees for supporting 4-H.
3. Commissioner Westfall asked administration and staff to check on whether Harvey County has regulations in place to comply with recently passed legislation regarding broadband equipment in public road right-of-way. He stated that the current issue of the KAC newsletter has an article about the changes to KSA 17-1901 which will go into effect on October 1, 2016.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Hague suggested that the planning and scheduling of the employee picnic begin soon.
2. The Airport tenant appreciation and fly-in kickoff lunch will be held September 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Airport.

Minutes of the August 15 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner, Administrator, reported that the Road & Bridge Department is working on cleaning up the area around the new generator in front of the Law Enforcement Center in preparation for installing a fence around the generator.
2. John presented copies of the approved building permit for a swimming pool on the Holdeman property on NE 60<sup>th</sup> St. There are concerns by the commissioners and Sand Creek Watershed board members about building a pool on the site which might be in the breach area of a dam. The Kansas Department of Water Resources has not completed working on the plan for the breach area of the dam to accommodate the residence, but verbally stated that the pool will not affect their decision or plan.
3. John presented copies of the Kansas Governor's Grant Program application for a Federal Victims of Crime Act Grant. Administration is planning to complete and submit the application prior to the September 15 deadline.
4. John reported that the radio connection between the courthouse and the Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed buildings at the county yard has been intermittent. He stated that the cable from the tower to the buildings at the yard has been replaced but the connection is

- still not consistent. They are exploring other options to fix the connection issues, including replacing the cabling from the courthouse tower into the building.
5. John reported that a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Communications Center HVAC replacement proposal with P1 Group, the only bidder for the project. They will discuss options to reduce the proposed costs.
  6. John presented copies of the Household Hazardous Waste Program Annual Report for Harvey County for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The commissioners discussed the schedule for hazardous waste acceptance at the transfer station and learned that it is not accepted on Saturdays due to staffing.
  7. Gina Bell, Planning & Zoning Director, reported that she visited Pete's Puddle along with representatives from KDHE to investigate a complaint of sewage issues at the location.
  8. Byron Warta, EDC Representative, reported that one new project proposal was submitted in the last month. He also reported on the promotions of Beth Shelton to Executive Director and Jennifer Mueller to Retention and Expansion Specialist.
  9. Brian Palmer, Newton City/County Airport Manager, reported that the box culvert on Oliver Rd. has been poured. He also stated that they are working on getting the FAA weather information back on their website. The commissioners discussed privatization of the FBO operation at the airport with Brian.
  10. Brian stated that an aerobatic competition is scheduled for September 9 thru 12 and the EAA fly-in is scheduled for October 1. He also invited the commissioners to attend the Airport tenant appreciation and fly-in kickoff lunch scheduled for September 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Airport.
  11. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, reported that he is in the process of getting estimates for new wiring from the new generator to the IT department and supplemental air conditioning for the IT department.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$121,924.09 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

MKEC representative Keith Ayotte presented a Notice of Award to Bridges, Inc. for the replacement of bridge Q-16.9 on Dutch Ave. just east of Hesston. The notice recognizes the low bid from Bridges, Inc. and notifies them of being awarded the contract pending contract negotiations. Bridges, Inc. submitted a bid for \$997,187.50 utilizing the alternate specification for the use of concrete beams. The Bridges, Inc. bid was lower than the engineer's estimate of \$1,100,000 but higher than original estimates and the budget for this project. Last week Bridges, Inc. proposed an alternate abutment design that would reduce the costs by about \$200,000, but still comply with all of the other specifications. Keith called this a value engineering approach and stated that the initial engineering shows that the alternate abutment design is feasible. He stated that permits have already been issued for the construction of this single span bridge with no obstructions in the bed of the waterway. His firm will complete the final engineering based on contract negotiations with Bridges, Inc. Legal counsel approved the process of awarding this contract. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the Notice of Award to Bridges, Inc. and authorize MKEC to negotiate contract specifications

and costs, with final contract approval required by the commission. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss confidential matters with legal counsel. Commissioner Krehbiel 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 10:35 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was recessed at 10:35 a.m. to travel to West Park to view the progress of the construction of the new bathroom and shower facility.

The meeting was adjourned upon returning to the courthouse at noon.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

*Rick Piepho*  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

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

*Randy Hague*  
Randy Hague, Member

*Ron Krehbiel*  
Ron Krehbiel, Member