

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

**February 1, 2016**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on February 1, 2016 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Hague and Commissioner Westfall commented on the Local Government Day events that they attended in Topeka last week.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Harvey County Conservation District Annual Meeting will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. in Halstead.

Minutes of the January 25 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Lynnette Redington, Health Department Director, presented information about a Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Program grant that she is considering applying for. The grant would reimburse some of the telecom and internet expenses for the Health Department. She estimates savings of \$500 to \$650 per month. The commissioners agreed that she should continue investigating and pursuing this grant and present a formal grant agreement at a future meeting.
2. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that he has been working with Conquer the Gauntlet and Counselor Greg Nye and finalizing the arrangements and an agreement for an obstacle course event to be held at East Park on April 16, 2016. Kass reported that he contacted a representative of the Kansas Pavilions in Park City where a Conquer the Gauntlet event was held and they reported that the company was good to work with and they left their facility in good condition after the event; they would invite them back. Kass reported that the fees for the event can be structured in different ways, but he suggests charging a flat fee of approximately \$3,000 for this year. He also suggested that the Parks Department seek local vendors for concessions instead of having the company provide all of the vendors. The commissioners suggested that it may be better to have Conquer the Gauntlet provide all of vendors at least for the first year of the event and that a deposit or bond be required to ensure that the site is cleaned up properly after the event. The commissioners agreed to authorize Parks staff, Administration and Counselor Nye to proceed with negotiations and preparation of the contracts.
3. John Waltner, Administrator, reported that a joint meeting with Workforce Areas 1 and 4 has been scheduled for February 12 at noon.
4. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that he has received an application to fill an open position on the Parks Advisory Board from a Newton resident that was recommended by board member Larry Schmitt. Commissioner Hague made a motion to

- accept the application as the first reading of the appointment of Bill Kiehl as a member of the Parks Advisory Board. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. Brian Palmer, Newton City/County Airport Manager reported that jet fuel sales were up in 2015 compared to 2014. He also reported that George “Chip” Westfall was elected as the chairman of the Newton City/County Aviation Commission.
  6. Lynnette Redington reported that the Harvey County Food & Farm Council met last week to define food assessments. She also reported that the Breast Feeding Coalition received a \$3,000 grant from United Methodist Health Ministry Fund in Hutchinson to be divided into \$500 mini grants to set up breast feeding stations.
  7. Sheriff T. Walton presented some highlights from the 2015 Sheriff Office Year End Report that was included in last week’s packet of information. He stated that there was a decrease in the total number of cases in 2015 with a decrease in burglary, theft and DUI cases, but with an increase in the number of auto accidents and drug cases. He stated that the number of juvenile incarcerations was higher than any other time. He also reported that he attended the Law Enforcement Officials convention and legislative reception last week and that a number of law enforcement related legislative issues were discussed.
  8. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, reported that sales tax collections are up more than 4% compared to last year at this time.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizen’s Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$76,268.23 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

At 9:38 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 22 minutes to discuss privileged communication with legal counsel and non-elected personnel. 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. At 9:50 a.m. Anthony, Rick and Counselor Nye left the session. Executive session ended at 10:00 a.m. with no action being taken.

Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the annual contract with John Waltner, County Administrator for the period of February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017. The contracted salary is \$98,364.00 per year which includes an increase comparable to the adjustments made to employee wages and elected official salaries. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 10:05 Rich Denno, Chairman of the Harvey County Public Building Commission (PBC) called the meeting of the PBC to order. Chairman Denno, Secretary Robert Nattier and member Randy Hague were in attendance. Tim Johnson was absent and the position that was held by Vice-Chairman, Gene Wendling is currently vacant. Chairman Denno asked the County Commissioners if an appointment has been made to fill the vacant position on the PBC. The commission answered no.

Minutes of the January 20, 2015 PBC meeting were approved upon a motion by Bob Nattier, seconded by Randy Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Denno stated that the next order of business was the election of PBC officers. Randy Hague made a motion to retain Chairman Rich Denno and Secretary Robert Nattier in their current positions and elect Tim Johnson as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Robert Nattier. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the PBC a motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Hague, Nattier). The motion passed unanimously and the PBC meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Anthony gave a presentation of the 2015 Year-End Financial report. He stated that Harvey County is in a good financial position with all fund balances over the required amounts. Assessed values are up, revenues are up and expenses were lower than budgeted. The tentative 2017 budget timeline was distributed. The kick-off meeting with department heads will be held Feb. 17. Anthony stated that the tax lid legislation may cause the budget timeline to change significantly.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

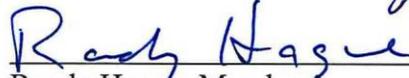
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

  
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Rick Piepho, County Clerk

  
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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
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Randy Hague, Member

  
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Ron Krehbiel, Member