

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 30, 2017

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on May 30, 2017 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

1. Commissioner Westfall reported that he attended a REAP legislative committee meeting where they heard updates on the activities in the KS Legislature. He reported that the legislature is having difficulties passing taxation, school finance and budget bills with enough votes to override a potential veto by the Governor. He also reported that some changes to the tax lid are still possible in this session.

CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Westfall and Commissioner Hague will attend the KCCA conference in Junction City beginning tomorrow afternoon.
2. The tax foreclosure sale is scheduled for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Community Room and 2:00 p.m. at the property site at First and Spencer in Newton.

Minutes of the May 22-24 Commission meetings were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. Anthony Swartzendruber, Administrator, reported on some research that he conducted regarding WorkForce Area 1. He reported that WorkForce Area 1 does have a presence and a representative available in Harvey County on most days of the week. He stated that Harvey County EDC no longer subsidizes a portion of the salary of one WorkForce 1 employee, but they do provide an office space for that employee to work out of a few days a month. Anthony stated that WorkForce 1 also has an office in the Axtell Clinic campus of HCC that is staffed every day. Byron Warta, EDC representative for Harvey County, commented that his impression is that WorkForce 1 is making extra efforts to provide services in the county.
2. Anthony presented a Recommendation for Appointment form to appoint Kelly Bergeron to an open position as the City of Newton representative on the Harvey County Public Building Commission (PBC) for the term of May 30, 2017 to June 30, 2020. Commissioner Hague made a motion to waive the second reading and appoint Kelly Bergeron to the PBC and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Kass Miller, Director of Parks, reported that both parks were busy over the Memorial Day Weekend. He stated that the weather was great and very few incidents were reported.
4. Gary Denny, Emergency Management Director, reported that he will be conducting ICS classes later today for Hesston USD 460 personnel.
5. Sheriff Chad Gay reported that the test of the bicycle patrol program at East Park over the Memorial Day Weekend went well and the feedback is positive. Chad also reported that over the weekend there was a fatality motorcycle accident on Old 81 and three persons were arrested for randomly shooting at signs and a few buildings.
6. Dan Bronson, Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director, presented the Sales Tax Collections report for May. Sales tax collections are down for the month compared to last year and the quarter and year to date totals also down slightly.

7. Kyle McCaskey, Public Information Officer and Special Projects Coordinator, introduced Jaylin Jackson who has been hired as a summer intern to help administer and collect data for the Solid Waste fee program.
8. Counselor Greg Nye stated that the two separate tax foreclosure sales are scheduled for this Wednesday, May 31; some properties have already been redeemed and removed from the sale.
9. Rick Piepho, County Clerk & Election Officer, reported that the candidate filing deadline for the November City/School election is June 1 at noon.

CITIZENS FORUM:

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$218,049.32 total were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

Martha Gartner and Scott Eckert presented the 2018 proposed budget for the Harvey County Extension Council for approval. This budget and appropriation request was submitted last Tuesday and if the commission does not approve the proposed budget they must return it to the Extension Council within 10 days from the date it was submitted. The commission must approve the final Harvey County Extension Council budget prior to the July 15 deadline for submitting their budget to the County Clerk. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve and authorize the chair to sign the 2018 Harvey County Extension Council budget as presented for a total amount of \$433,750 including a \$340,142 appropriation from Harvey County. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A discussion was held about the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and changes proposed by the City of Newton to convert the gun range into office space. Copies of the Agreement for the Development and Operation of a City/County Law Enforcement Center from January 1994 were distributed. Sheriff Gay stated that he has increased the number of practice rounds fired each month for his staff and they utilize the indoor range frequently and it would be very inconvenient to meet their goals with only an outdoor range. The commissioners agreed that there is a need to have a gun range located in the LEC and that the amount of office space gained would not outweigh the loss of the indoor range. Commissioner Westfall expressed concerns that an emergency egress would need to be included if the space was converted to offices, which would reduce the amount of office space provided even further. Commissioner Hague suggested that research be done to see if moving the evidence and records storage to another facility would provide enough additional office space for the Newton Police Department. The commissioners also discussed the need to rehab or replace the HVAC system in the LEC and they directed Anthony to begin the process to get an estimated cost.

Mike Llamas, Panel Administrator for the Harvey County Legal Services Panel (HCLSP), presented the 2018 appropriation request for consideration. He is requesting an increase for the amount of the Contract for Legal Services of \$15,000 from \$145,000 to \$160,000. The total contract amount is distributed equally amongst the four panel members who provide legal representation when appointed by the District Court to certain persons in certain types of cases. Mike stated that this system of funding and providing this required service has been working well for the attorneys and for the judges assigning these cases; it has also made it easier for the county to forecast and equalize the yearly cost. He stated that the total contract amount has not changed for six years, but costs have increased overall and the number of filings has increased significantly. The commissioners agreed with the need to increase the funding and will consider the request when finalizing the 2018 budget.

Anthony distributed a summary of all of the supplemental requests that showed the total of all requests by all departments for 2018. The commissioners discussed the requests and gave direction for Anthony to proceed with budget preparation.

At 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were Anthony Swartzendruber, Dan Bronson and Counselor Greg Nye. Executive session ended at 11:30 a.m. with no action being taken.

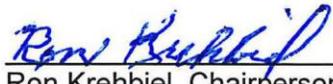
The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

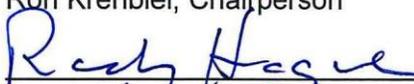
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:


Rick Piepho, County Clerk


Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson


Randy Hague, Member


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member