

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

**March 4, 2013**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 4, 2013 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Krehbiel received a compliment from another citizen about how well the Road & Bridge Department handled the clearing of the roads during the recent snow event.
2. Commissioner Westfall gave a report on the REAP legislative meeting held last week.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The time change to begin Daylight Savings Time will take place March 10.
2. The monthly REAP meeting will be held on Monday, March 11. The Commission meeting will begin at 10:30.
3. Commissioner Krehbiel will attend a meeting of the Judicial Nominating Committee in McPherson on March 19 at 9:00 a.m.
4. Commissioner Westfall will speak at a meeting of the Walton Senior Citizens on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Whistle Stop Restaurant.
5. Bernie Koch will host a legislative update at 12:00 p.m. at Montana Mikes on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
6. Commissioner Westfall will represent the REAP organization at the Butler County Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of the February 25, 2013 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. Assistant Administrator, Anthony Swartzendruber, will preside at the meeting today as Administrator John Waltner is out of town.
2. Anthony introduced Taylour Tedder, a Wichita State University Hugo Wall School Public Administration student who will be shadowing here today. He is also working on a case study involving Harvey County as a requirement of one of his classes.
3. Craig Clough, Appraiser, reported that valuation notices were sent out last week. The Appraiser's Office has set up an extra phone line to handle the increased volume of calls. If residents have questions about their valuations, in addition to calling, they can communicate and send support documents by FAX or e-mail. He reported that valuations are up about 3%. In response to a question by Commissioner Westfall asked about how valuations for agricultural land are set. Craig explained it

that the values are set by the State of Kansas according to the income of the property. It is a very complicated process that is influenced in part by such organizations as Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association.

4. Mark Hardtarfer, Chief Deputy with the Sheriff's Office, presented a request to amend the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan for the Sheriff's Department. The CIP contains an amount of \$16,500 for the purchase of three Watch Guard in-car video cameras. However, they are instead requesting to be allowed to purchase seven radar units, four of which will be placed in the four new vehicles, and three will replace the radars in existing units. They have received quotes from two companies and their preference is to purchase Stalker units. It was also clarified that each patrol vehicle has a video camera. They have chosen not to equip administrative vehicles with cameras, so they actually have two extra ones. Deputy Hardtarfer stated that they have had some court cases dismissed because of the age of the current radar units. Commissioner Hague stated that he is not opposed to equipping the four new vehicles with new radar systems, but that he would prefer the purchase of new radar units for existing vehicles be delayed until those vehicles are replaced. Deputy Hardtarfer said that the purchase price for each of the radar units decreases as the quantity purchased increases. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to amend the CIP allowing the Sheriff's Department to waive the purchasing policy and purchase seven Stalker radar units at a purchase price of \$14,700. Chairman Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. Anthony presented the proposed invitation to bidders for the annual restocking of fish at the County Parks. Because of the low water level at Camp Hawk, the lake there will not be restocked at this time. The restocking at East Park and West Park will be at normal levels as recommended by KDWP. The Commissioners expressed concern that if the drought continues and water levels do not improve, there could be a significant loss of fish. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the invitation to bidders for the fish restocking of the Harvey County Parks with included language that will allow the cancellation 10 days prior to the restocking if the Kansas Department of Water Resources and/or the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks should so advise. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. Administration continues to work to reschedule a representative from KWORCC to address the Commission regarding the significant increase in Worker's Compensation insurance rates.
7. Anthony reported that the Public Building Commission bond closure that was held Friday, March 1 went well.
8. Anthony reported that the vendor for the new phone system will begin the installation on Friday at 5:00 p.m. Each department will be consulted on Monday or Tuesday to verify that the programming specific to the department is as requested.
9. There is a tentative tenant for the former ranger residence at West Park. The residence will be leased for \$700 per month.
10. The Commissioners received pictures of the bait shop awning that was damaged and collapsed from the weight of the snow two weeks ago.
11. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the Sheriff's Department will host one of three state

- wide training sessions on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The training will be on child death review, child homicide review, and child abuse and trafficking. Eighty five officers have signed up to attend. Permission to use the Catholic Church parking lot has been granted. He also reported that the repair of the two vehicles that got hit during the snow storm will be paid for by the insurance of the people that hit them.
12. Lonnie Buller, Director of Emergency Management, reported that the Mitigation Plan that was implemented several years ago is due for renewal in 2015. The plan involves many of the taxing entities and non-profits in the County. There are new requirements from the State that a representative from every tax entity and non-profit that participate in the plan must attend one of three state wide meetings or they will not be eligible to receive any mitigation funding following disasters. Planning meetings are in the process of being scheduled, one of which is in El Dorado.
  13. Byron Warta reported that the Kansas Water Authority has estimated that Harvey County has a moisture deficit of 7 1/2" even after the snow melt. He also reported that a preconstruction meeting between the general contractor and subcontractors for the runway replacement project at the airport was held last week.
  14. Lynnette Redington, Director of the Health Department, reported that they purchased a new pharmaceutical freezer to store vaccine. The new freezer was purchased to replace one that was purchased in 2009 that is malfunctioning. The estimated repair cost is \$4,000 and they were able to purchase the new freezer, which has a three year warranty, for under \$1,000.
  15. Greg reported Will Johnson, Butler County Administrator, and Darrell Lutz, Butler County Engineer, are in agreement about the vacation of Osage Road between 84<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Street.
  16. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, thanked the Commission for providing pizza for the department after the big snow event last week. All of the department employees appreciated it.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

There were no items presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$88,715.94 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Lynnette Redington and Patrick Mwangi, Fiscal Manager at the Health Department, presented the application for annual Aid to Local Grant from the State of Kansas for the Health Department. The amount requested for the grant was increased to \$205,666.52 this year because of increased personnel compensation and increased expenditures. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the grant application and authorize the chairman to sign. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The Commission took a 10 minute break.

Jim Meier and Lonnie Buller gave a report on the two snow events, the first of which began on February 21. The official report of snowfall for the area, which experienced two storms within six

days, was 20.5 inches. Jim reported that the snow was coming down so fast that the plowing became ineffective and the diminished visibility made it very dangerous for the road crews. They stopped plowing until daybreak the next morning. They had to put B plows on graders for the first time in 25 years. One plow was reportedly damaged but was repairable. The total cost to deal with the snow events was \$51,133.11. They are in the process of replenishing salt and sand for the Department. Lonnie reported that there were 87 snow related incidents during the second event, including accidents and slide-offs. He said that the State of Kansas is considering a Federal Disaster Declaration which would enable federal funding for the costs involved with the clean up. He will be required to report the total amount expended for the cleanup in Harvey County by Friday of next week. A threshold of \$119,659.80, which is the county population times \$3.45, would have to be met in order to qualify for assistance. Kevin Schmidt reported that they continue to blade roads. It will probably take several more days. East Lake Road is very wash boarded.

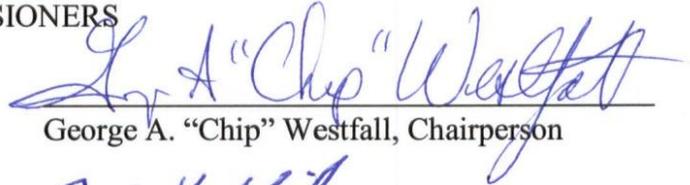
Quotes to replace a John Deere tractor that is used for mowing were presented by Jim Meier, Road Supervisor Kevin Schmidt, and Mechanic Allen Libel. The Road and Bridge Department purchased the tractor used in 2005 for \$35,000. It had to be repaired in 2007 because of metal shavings in the hydraulic system and the repair costs at that time were \$8,000. The tractor is in need of repair once again because the synchronizers in the transmission went down in the suction screen on the hydraulic pickup and floated a lot of metal around in the system. This is causing the hydraulic pump shafts to break off. This is a major failure that would cost at least \$5,000 in labor only. Jim is requesting permission to purchase a good used or new tractor to replace it. Discussion was held with regard to contract mowing versus the Road & Bridge Department doing the mowing. It was reported that the County does a better job of the mowing and is more consistent than a contractor. The possibility of a possible lease/purchase was also discussed. The purchase of a tractor was not included in the 2013 CIP. Commissioner Westfall suggested that more information be provided before a final decision is made. This would include a formal request for bids, quotes on contracting out the mowing, quotes on repairing the tractor, and options for financing.

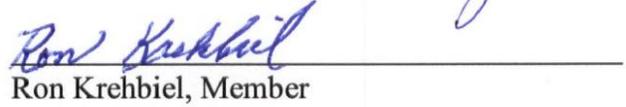
Gina Bell, Director of Planning & Zoning, presented the amended conditional use permit submitted by Craig & Julie Miller to operate a campground and retreat center. Commissioner Hague made a motion to approve the conditional use permit. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

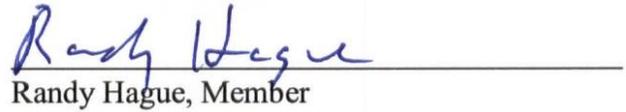
Craig Clough returned to the meeting to provide the Commissioners copies of Harvey County agricultural land valuation totals according to the category of the land.

At 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 20 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the session were Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Executive session ended at 11:50 a.m. with no action being taken.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

