

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

**March 25, 2013**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on March 25, 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 reported that the Judicial Nomination Committee met last week and interviewed 11 candidates for the 9<sup>th</sup> District Judge's position that is open. The three finalists that were selected are John Klenda, Marilyn Wilder, and Bill Mills. Governor Brownback will make the appointment from these finalists.
2. Commissioner Westfall reported that a hole in a bridge near Halstead was repaired by the Road & Bridge Department. He stated that the approaches to the bridge also need repaired. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, said that although the County is responsible for the bridge only, he does not know who is responsible for the approaches.
3. It was reported that the Road and Bridge Department is also working on culverts on 36<sup>th</sup> Street, placing 4 foot extensions on them.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. There will be a REAP Executive Committee meeting Tuesday, March 26 at 11:30 a.m. in Wichita.

Minutes of the March 18 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John Waltner reported that the mother of West Park Ranger, Carol Dilts, passed away last weekend.
2. The Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference will be held in Wichita on May 7, 8, and 9, 2013.
3. John reported that he was asked if the Courthouse lawn could be used as a landing area for helicopter rides during the downtown car show that will be held in early May. John consulted with the insurance company who was not in favor of allowing this because of the overhead power lines, towers, etc. that are close to the Courthouse. The Commissioners agreed that it would be better to find an alternate location.
4. This area received several inches of snow over the weekend. As Jim Meier was going in to work on Saturday evening, he came up on an accident that had just occurred on the interstate. A vehicle had lost control on a slick overpass and landed upside down. Although the driver was not injured she was unable to get out of the vehicle. Jim helped to extricate her and was in the process of moving his vehicle

closer so the driver could get into his truck to stay warm; another vehicle lost control, crossed the median and hit the rear of his vehicle. Although there were no injuries in either crash, the interstate was shut down for a while to enable emergency personnel to work the accident. There were several vehicle slide offs that occurred that night.

5. The county budget process is now fully underway. Information was given out in a Department Head meeting that was held last week. Anthony Swartzendruber gave the Commissioners the proposed timeline for the process. Department Heads have been asked to put two budgets together, one that keeps the operation budget flat and one that would reduce the amount requested. The Commissioners agreed with the budget timeline. The public hearing for the county budget is scheduled for August 5 and the budget will be formally adopted on August 12.
6. A brief discussion was held regarding several house bills before the legislature that would have significant effects on the county and other local taxing entities.
7. John reported that the Driver's License Office was extremely busy last week. There were a significant number of out-of-county customers plus a number of students that were off on spring break. The office personnel did a very good job of handling the extra load.
8. Counselor Greg Nye presented a copy of a court order for the county to receive money that had been collected in tax foreclosures by an attorney and held in a District Court fund since 2002. The attorney passed away before the court order was prepared so the money has stayed in that fund. Court costs have now been paid and the County has received a check in the amount of \$7,285.
9. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the Detention Center has been at maximum capacity for the past week. There are a couple of cell doors that will not close and they will be expensive to repair. He also reported that they had shut down a marijuana growing operation.
10. Byron Warta reported that the second phase of the runway replacement project at the Newton City/County Airport is scheduled to begin on April 1.
11. Jim Meier reported that he had crews out clearing, salting and sanding the county roads from about 10:30 Saturday night until approximately 6:00 p.m. Sunday night. They experienced equipment failures on some of the older equipment.
12. Commissioner Westfall reported that there have been complaints about an increased number of dead cockroaches on the south side of the Courthouse.

## **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

No items were presented during Citizen's Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$84,681.48 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Krehbiel, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

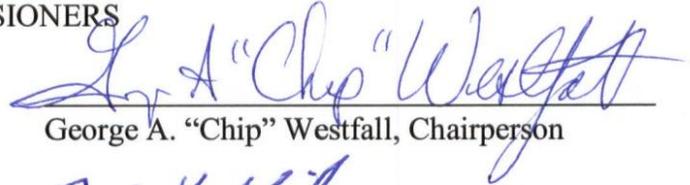
The Commission recessed for a short break.

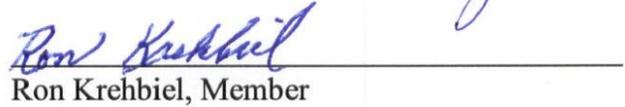
Bob Cheney, Noxious Weed Director, presented the proposed invitation to bidders for the purchase of herbicides for noxious weed control. The invitation will be sent to five different companies and

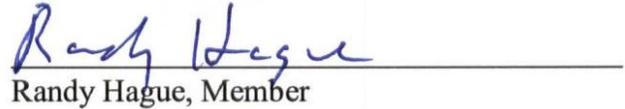
the estimated total cost of the chemicals is \$24,080. Bob said that there is carryover from last year so the amount requested for bid is lower than it has been in the past. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to approve the bid invitation for the purchase of herbicides. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

  
Ron Krehbiel, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

ATTEST:

  
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

