

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**July 28, 2014**

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met in special session on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall for the purpose of approving the 2015 notice of budget hearing for publication. The following were present: Mayor Beth Wade, Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Clerk Debra Wendt, Mike Ryan, Belinda Kimball, Cynthia Naylor, and Stephanie Gilbert of the Herington Times. Commissioner Chuck Miller was absent.

Beth called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron gave a brief explanation of what we did to get the proposed budget where it is. Kitty had some questions on the airport and Homestead Village, and Michelle asked about the proposed carry over in the light fund. Ron explained that the capital outlay amount in the water fund is for water tower repair, and that \$30,000 remains in the budget for demolition of condemned properties. Fred suggested that if we tear down condemned houses, we should attempt to take ownership of the properties. Kitty said that she is very grateful that we have services such as lab, physical therapy, and x-ray at the hospital, but she feels that money could be saved if they didn't offer in-patient care. Fred disagreed, saying "a town without a hospital is not a town, and what is the value of one life?" Michelle said that she has found that citizens are split as to if they want to have a hospital, and she asked if the hospital will pay their electric bill if we give them the five mills that are included in the budget. It was noted that the sales tax election is on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and the budget hearing is August 19<sup>th</sup>. It was also brought up that a critical access hospital gets Medicare reimbursement, but an urgent care facility might not. Ron mentioned that after publication, the mill levy can always be lowered, but not raised. After more discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to set the 2015 budget hearing for August 19, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., and to publish the notice of hearing with a total mill levy of 83.350. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." This levy includes five mills for the hospital and \$30,000 for demolition. It is 6.675 mills higher than 2014.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Debra Wendt  
City Clerk