

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT CITY/COUNTY WORK SESSION

June 16, 2016

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and Newton City Commissioners met in a special joint work session on June 16, 2016. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Harvey County Courthouse Community Room. All three County Commissioners were in attendance and City Commissioners Glen Davis, Barth Hague, Leroy Koehn, David Nygaard and Kathy Valentine were also in attendance.

Jim Meier, Harvey County Road & Bridge Superintendent, gave a presentation on GRS-IBS bridge construction.

Bob Myers, Newton City Manager, reported that this year marks the 10th anniversary of Sand Creek Station golf course and the 5 year anniversary for the Meridian Center; some activities are scheduled to celebrate the anniversaries.

Melody Spurney, Newton Convention and Visitors Bureau, displayed one of the new videos that were created to promote tourism and encourage visits to Newton.

Bob Myers stated that prolonged maintenance deferrals are causing infrastructure failures that will have to be addressed in the near future. City staff from Public Works, City Attorney and the Airport reported on current and future projects and activities. The Airport is currently in the process of catching up on a lot of maintenance activities that had been deferred. The city is working with two developers on affordable housing projects; 1,124 jobs were created in Harvey County from 2010-2014, but the population is not growing at the same rate.

A discussion was held regarding funding for the Emergency Response Team (ERT). Both commissions agreed that the ERT should not be required to conduct their own fundraising events to fund their operations. The county currently provides \$3,000 per year plus Sheriff forfeiture funds and the city is planning to add \$10,000 to their budget for ERT funding. Commissioner Westfall suggested that all of the cities in the county provide some funding for operation of the ERT.

A discussion was held regarding the timeline for the new Newton Police Department building and the City of Sedgwick EMT or ambulance situation. Bob Myers stated that there is still a tenant on the property that was purchased for the new police station. Newton Fire has not been contacted about contracting for EMT service in the City of Sedgwick.

A discussion was held regarding economic development and marketing of the KLP. Bob Myers suggested that a new EDC strategic plan be prepared. Commissioner Westfall asked if ABI is meeting their abatement compliance requirements. Bob Myers replied that they are still within their 3 year implementation period.

The next two joint meetings are scheduled for 4 p.m. on September 15 at City Hall and December 15 at the Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



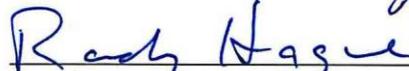
ATTEST:



Rick Piepho, County Clerk



George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson



Randy Hague, Member



Ron Krehbiel, Member