

MINUTES OF
THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING

August 26, 2014

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and Board of Newton City Commissioners met in special session on August 26, 2014 with County Commissioners, Ron Krehbiel, Chip Westfall, and Randy Hague; and Newton City Commissioners, Leroy Koehn, Bob Smyth, Jim Nickel, Raquel Thiesen, and Glen Davis present. The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

Jim Daily, Newton City Police Chief, gave an overview of a proposed project to either expand or remodel the Law Enforcement Center, which is shared by both the City and the County. He presented a plan to add a second story to the existing facility, essentially doubling the space of both the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department. The goal of the project is to provide additional space for offices and staff, provide additional space for evidence storage, restructure the existing space to provide greater security, enhance the building to provide improved technology, and updating the facilities to include ADA compliant restrooms on the main floor. It is proposed that a solution be completed some time in 2015. The Law Enforcement Center is owned by Harvey County and the City of Newton pays for a portion of the utilities, half of the wages for custodial staff, and half of any major repairs, but there are no lease expenses.

Chief Daily reported that the first proposal for additional space was presented to the Newton City Commission in 2010. The problem was again brought before the City Commission in 2011. Several options were discussed at that time including locating at an alternate location. However, that option proved to be cost prohibitive. Also considered at that time was the option to add a second floor to the existing building. The space needs have continued to increase since that time.

Suzanne Loomis, Newton City Engineer, presented a floor plan of a remodel of the existing facility as another option to consider. The plan included ADA restrooms, better functioning windows, reconfigured offices, and better organized use of existing space. Although this plan would address some of the issues, it does not solve all of the additional space needs.

Discussion was held including whether the Police Department is considering a sub-station in the southern part of the city, and whether the building currently occupied by the Health Department could be used to alleviate space and storage needs. Sheriff T. Walton said the Sheriff's Department is also experiencing space issues. He said we will have to grow to keep up with the growth and needs of the community. He said the second story would be the best option if money were no object. Discussion was also held regarding the purchase of a diesel generator for the current Law Enforcement Center. Estimates

have been obtained for a 180KW and a 200KW generator, but those may not be big enough to account for additional space in an added second floor. Additional discussion was held regarding the structural capabilities of the existing facility, cost estimates for adding a second floor, whether the main floor would have to be remodeled in addition to adding a second floor, and cost estimates for that. Also discussed were how the debt service would work and the length of the debt service, and a lease agreement between the City and the County.

Commissioner Davis suggested that an architect be hired to begin the process. However, Commissioner Westfall suggested that an engineer be hired first to provide a structural feasibility study of the existing building, to determine if a second story could be added.

The consensus of the group was to approach the problem with a long term solution in mind, avoiding a "Band-Aid" fix. Suzanne Loomis was instructed to retain a structural engineer to look at the building and give a report of the findings. Following the completion of the report, another joint meeting will be scheduled the first part of October to review the engineer's findings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Krehbiel

Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson

Randy Hague

Randy Hague, Member

George A. "Chip" Westfall

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:

Joyce Truskett
Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

