

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

March 24, 2016

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and Newton City Commissioners met in a special joint work session on March 24, 2016. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Newton City Hall Conference Room. County Commissioners Westfall and Hague were in attendance and City Commissioners Glen Davis, Barth Hague, Leroy Koehn, David Nygaard and Kathy Valentine were also in attendance. County Commissioner Ron Krehbiel was absent.

Commissioner Westfall thanked the Newton Fire Department for their assistance with the wildfires that started Wednesday afternoon in western Harvey County.

The agenda listed the possible topics that merit joint discussion including airport governance, economic development, legislative measures and potential partnerships between the City and the County.

Mayor Davis stated that he would like for the Airport Commission to have more power to self govern. Currently the Airport Commission is an advisory board. A discussion was held on the topic including a suggestion of possibly creating an Airport Authority. City Attorney Bob Meyers will research the possible options and report at a future meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the recent resignation of Harvey County Economic Development Executive Director Mickey Fornaro-Dean. Economic Development priorities and opportunities were also discussed. A discussion was held regarding a suggestion to focus more on workforce incentives and assist with expansion of existing businesses.

A discussion was held regarding the current status and ramifications of the tax lid legislation that is still active in the legislature. The legislation was being worked in a legislative committee today and changes are still being made, so no one is sure what the final outcome will be.

Potential partnerships between the City and the County were discussed. A few suggestions were made including a shared law enforcement evidence warehouse and shared Public Works/Road & Bridge facilities and material storage.

The next three joint meetings are scheduled for 4 p.m. on June 16 at the Courthouse, September 15 at City Hall and December 15 at the Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ATTEST:

Rick Piepho
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

George A. "Chip" Westfall
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

Randy Hague
Randy Hague, Member

Absent
Ron Krehbiel, Member