

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

**August 22, 2017**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and Newton City Commissioners met in a special joint work session on August 22, 2017. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in the Newton Fire/EMS Station #3 Community Room. All three County Commissioners were in attendance and all five City Commissioners (Barth Hague, Glen Davis, David Nygaard, Leroy Koehn and Kathy Valentine) were also in attendance.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Suzanne Loomis, City of Newton Engineer/Director of Public Works, presented information on proposed renovations and improvements at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) based on recommendations from the Community Council on Police Facilities. She distributed copies of a memo listing additional improvements/needs suggested by county staff. Suzanne provided some rough cost figures for the project and an estimate of the costs for the next phase of contracting an architecture firm to prepare plans and formal estimates. She recommends that the commissions consider hiring WDM Architects to prepare plans and formal estimates and approve contracting for lead testing in the indoor shooting range. Eric Murphy, Newton City Chief of Police, and Sheriff Chad Gay have both been involved in the discussions and prioritizing the facility needs of their respective departments. Both support the proposed plan as a good short-term (7-10 year) solution. Anthony Swartzendruber, County Administrator, stated that the agreement between the City and County for maintaining the Law Enforcement Center facility will also need to be updated. Commissioner Westfall suggested mandating a yearly walkthrough of the facility by city and county staff to address maintenance issues and needs. Both commissions were agreeable to proceeding with the project including contracting for lead testing and architectural work. Formal agreements will be prepared by legal staff and presented to each commission for approval.
2. Eric Murphy, Newton City Chief of Police, and Sheriff Chad Gay gave a report on the plans and progress of reestablishing the Harvey County Drug Task Force. Currently the Newton Police Department and the Harvey County Sheriff's office each have one dedicated drug officer. The County has approved adding another Sheriff Investigator position to add a third officer to the Task Force. An agreement has been completed between the Sheriff office and the Newton Police Department and discussions are being held with the other law enforcement agencies in the county about the levels of support they can provide. Some agencies will assist by providing equipment and others may provide some funding. They are in the process of creating written policies and procedures for operating the Drug Task Force.
3. A discussion was held regarding the number of board member positions on the Newton City-County Aviation Commission. City Commissioner Davis who is also a member of the Aviation Commission made at motion at the Aviation Commission meeting to expand the commission from nine members to ten members after two qualified candidates were nominated to fill an open position on the board. The vote on his motion was tied 4-4. Commissioner Davis stated that since that meeting he has reconsidered his opinion on expanding the board. County Commissioner Westfall who is also a member of the Aviation Commission stated that it is

impractical to have a board with an even number of members; he recommends continuing with the nine member board. He stated that the current agreement was revised in 2015 addressing the structure of the board, number of members and term limits for members. Both commissions agreed that the structure of the Aviation Commission board should remain the same and no further discussion is needed.

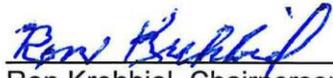
The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

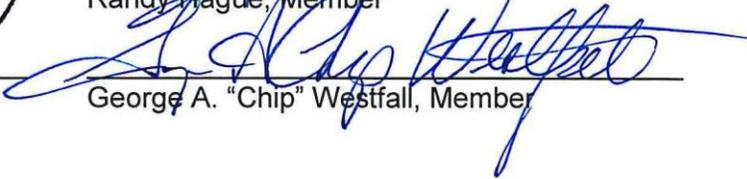


ATTEST:

  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

  
Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson

  
Randy Hague, Member

  
George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member