

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

May 3, 2017

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and Newton City Commissioners met in a special joint work session on May 3, 2017. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Newton City Hall Conference Room. All three County Commissioners were in attendance and City Commissioners Barth Hague, Glen Davis and Kathy Valentine were also in attendance.

Eric Murphy, Newton City Chief of Police, gave a report on the plans and progress for re-vitalizing the Harvey County Drug Task Force. Currently the Newton Police Department and the Harvey County Sheriff's office each have one dedicated drug officer. There is some consensus that to be affective throughout the county, a third officer would need to be hired. Additional equipment would also be needed to complete successful investigations. Although efforts have been made to find grant monies to fund the equipment, funding is not available at this time. Bob Myers, Newton City Manager, stated that an interlocal agreement between the cities is being talked about. There is a possibility that a portion of the drug forfeiture proceeds might be dedicated to this project. Commissioner Westfall suggested reactivating Crime Stoppers and a possible fund drive.

Kelly Bergeron, Newton City Director of Community Planning & Development, gave a presentation on the usage history of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The program began in 1998 and was designed to give property owners the opportunity to receive up to a 10 year tax rebate. In 2016, 48 properties participated in the NRP. The rebate to the 48 property owners totaled \$237,406. The analysis of this program is on-going and more information will be presented at a future meeting.

Bob Myers gave an update on Newton's Community Council on Police Facilities. Bob stated that one option for this group to consider will be to rehabilitate the existing facility. The current thought is to eliminate the shooting range in the basement and use that area as office and/or meeting space. A new outdoor shooting range would need to be built and the city feels they have a location. More research on the cost and impact of rehabilitating the current facility will be pursued. Commissioner Westfall suggested that stale evidence might be stored at another facility. There was additional discussion regarding the agreement for maintaining the Law Enforcement Center facility.

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss matters protected by attorney client privilege. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were Counselor Greg Nye, Dan Bronson and Anthony Swartzendruber from the County. In addition, the City Commissioners, Bob Myers, Chris Towle, Suzanne Loomis and Brian Palmer were present from the City. Executive session ended at 4:15 p.m. with no action being taken.

Minutes of
Board of Harvey County Commissioners
May 3, 2017
Page 2 of 2

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

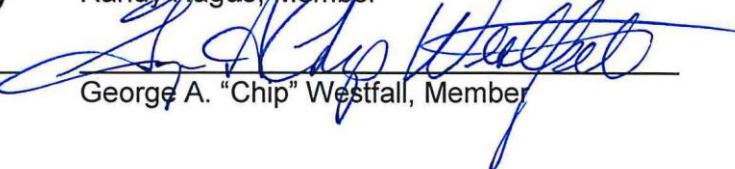


ATTEST:


Rick Piepho, County Clerk


Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson


Randy Hague, Member


George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member