

JOINT WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 22, 2017

The Newton City Commission convened in a work session with the Harvey County Commission on August 22, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Fire Station #3, 2520 South Kansas Avenue. Attending for the City of Newton were Mayor Hague, Vice Mayor Nygaard, Commissioners Davis, Koehn and Valentine, City Manager Myers, City Attorney Towle, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Community Planning & Development McElroy, Director of Communication McDaniel, Airport Manager Palmer, Chief Murphy, Deputy Chief Dunlavy and City Clerk Duerksen.

Those in attendance from Harvey County included Commissioners Krehbiel, Hague and Westfall, County Administrator Swartzendruber, Assistant County Administrator Bronson, County Clerk Piepho, County Counselor Nye, Sheriff Gay and Undersheriff Chapman.

City staff reviewed the possible floor plan for the renovation of the law enforcement facility, which was recommended by the City's Citizen Council on Law Enforcement Facilities. It's estimated that the renovation plan would meet the needs of the Police Department for the next seven to ten years by making more efficient use of space, relocating some operations, and collaborating with the Sheriff's Office on some joint uses. For example, the space at the back of the west side of the building that is currently used as evidence storage would be transitioned into an office to house the new joint Drug Task Force.

Cost for the renovation is estimated at roughly \$3 million, although firm costs won't be known until construction drawings are complete. Lead testing of the indoor shooting range will also need to be done. Both Commissions agreed to move forward with hiring WDM Architects to prepare those plans and to have the lead assessment done. Once firm cost estimates are known, the City and County will work on a cost-sharing agreement.

A report was then given on the joint drug task force. Currently, there is one detective from the Police Department and one from the Sheriff's Office serving on the task force. The Sheriff's office has been given approval for a second detective to serve on the task force. Contact has been made with the other chiefs in the county to see what kind of buy-in they are willing to have in the task force. Besides money, surveillance equipment is also needed from the surrounding police departments is being sought. Hesston has made a donation of some equipment already.

Discussion on whether to expand the number of Aviation Commission members from nine to ten was held. Consensus was to leave the Commission as it is.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk