

JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING
December 12, 2013

The City Commission of the City of Liberal, Kansas convened in joint session with the Seward County Board of Commissioners at the Seward County Administration Building located at 515 North Washington Avenue, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2013.

Mayor Harrison called the City Commission meeting to order and presided over the meeting. The following City Commissioners were present: Mayor Dave Harrison, Vice Mayor Janet Willimon, Commissioners Dean Aragon and Ron Warren. Commissioner Joe Denoyer was not present at the meeting, but joined the meeting via cell phone. Also present were City Manager Mark Hall, Finance Director Chris Ford, Public Works Director Joe Sealey and City Clerk Debbie Giskie.

County Chairperson Linenbroker called the Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting to order. The following Seward County Commissioners were present: Chair Ada Linenbroker, Commissioners Randy Malin, Jim Rice and C.J. Wettstein. Absent was Vice Chair Doug LaFreniere. Also present was County Administrator April Warden, County Clerk Stacia Long and Sheriff Bill McBryde.

ITEM 1. SHOOTING RANGE. City Commissioner Denoyer advised the purpose of the meeting tonight is to discuss the options for the future of the shooting range. He noted the shooting range property is currently owned by the County with an easement granted to the City. He advised the City Commission had approved approximately \$52,000 to make improvements to the range.

- County Administrator Warden advised she had e-mailed City Manager Hall about the recent changes to the shooting range and noted the County Commissioners were called by a member of the Gun Club regarding the insurance. She explained the current shooting range is located on the landfill property, that there is trash underneath the ground and we need to get approval from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment since soil samples are being taken.
- Ms. Warden reported she had previously talked to Al Shank and was told the County had coverage because it is County property, but was told today that EMC will not insure the gun range because it will receive public use. It would only be covered if it was for enforcement use.
- City Manager Hall advised the City was told it is covered under the liability policy and we also have EMC coverage.
- City Commissioner Denoyer suggested we double-check that we are covered for public use. He questioned if there are other possibilities to do something different because of the KDHE regulations.
- County Commissioner Wettstein noted the trap range was out there before and there were issues. He explained the trap range was allowed to go on the north side of Tucker Road and perhaps there is a possibility of putting the shooting range directly north of the trap range. He noted they are waiting for information back from the landfill and that the County Commission hasn't discussed this option yet formally.
- County Commissioner Rice advised he was approached about the possibility of setting up the shooting range on the acreage around the barn on Tucker Road and shooting toward the east.

- Mayor Harrison advised this is part of the City's industrial park and we have some interest in that ground at the present time for economic development opportunities. He noted we would need KDHE approval before proceeding.
- City Commissioner Aragon questioned the pros and cons of locating the shooting range on property north of Tucker Road.
- Sheriff McBryde indicated he and Greg Standard had visited with former landfill director Mike Tabor years ago about the possibility of putting up a tower in that location. They were told it was designated as a future landfill site, but it might be 25 years down the road before that property is needed.
- Mayor Harrison questioned what the County's intentions were as far as taking over the gun range.
- County Commissioner Wettstein didn't feel the current shooting range location would be the prime location to expend \$52,000 on, especially with the landfill underneath. He also voiced concern about getting KDHE approval for the improvement and an area for National Beef to use for parking. He felt we should look at all the options before putting money into the shooting range. He didn't feel there was a need for two ranges and advised he is willing to look at all the options to get something that will work for the public and law enforcement. He questioned the cost of the new facility.
- City Manager Hall advised the estimate on dirt work was \$88,000, depending on the topography, and noted the cost could be upwards to \$150,000, because it would be a larger range. He noted the dirt work estimate was obtained at National's request and the City is still awaiting their answer if they are interested in assisting by paying for the dirt work.
- Discussion was held on possible locations for a new shooting range, and maps were displayed to show the property estimated between 70 and 120 acres. Mr. Hall explained the proposed new shooting range would be designed so everyone has a common firing line. He displayed a rough sketch of the number of shooting lanes and parking lot.
- Vice Mayor Willimon suggested turning this over to the County and let them run it.
- Mayor Harrison inquired if the County would be willing to share in half or three-quarters of the costs and who would be the owner of the gun range. He explained the City knows what they are willing to do, but aren't sure what the County could do.
- County Administrator Warden advised they have a lot of history, but they couldn't find any files on this issue.
- City Manager Hall advised the City deeded the ground to the County in 1994 and retained the easement, but nothing underneath. He referred to a grant agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and noted the terms indicated it must be available to the public on a 24-hour individual walk-in basis. Mayor Harrison advised we can't restrict public access to the range.
- Discussion was held on the future irrigation project where the City needs to be able to store 1,200 acre feet of water, therefore, they need to enlarge the storage retention space. City Public Works Director Sealey explained the dirt from the former retention property is highly suited for liner material for the Subtitle D holes. He mentioned that he had discussed this with Mike Tabor and assure him he could have all he wanted as long as the County excavated the material, but this hasn't happened yet.

- County Commissioner Malin indicated the County needed to haul it off and stockpile it elsewhere.
- Mayor Harrison advised the City is trying to get the improvements done while there isn't much use at the range and propose to do it while the weather is cold, instead of during the spring or summer.
- City Manager Hall reviewed the reservation method to be implemented on December 28.
- City Commissioner Denoyer suggested we have an opportunity to work together to build a new range and need to explore all the options. He advised he needed to go into some meetings and ended the phone call.
- Commissioner Aragon agreed this is an opportunity to work together and we should look at all the options, including the possibility of grants.

After further discussion, it was the consensus to contact KDHE to obtain information on what options are available with the current shooting range site located on landfill property and to obtain an answer from National Beef before proceeding further.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, Commissioner Aragon moved to adjourn the City Commission meeting, with Commissioner Warren seconding the motion.

County Commissioner Rice moved to adjourn the Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting, with County Commissioner Malin seconding the motion.

Dave Harrison, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk