

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING

Aug 24, 2010

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners and the Board of Newton City Commissioners met for a joint meeting in the Harvey County Courthouse Community Room to discuss the development of the Kansas Logistics Park. Mayor Heck and Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Those in attendance for the meeting are as follows: County Commissioners Chip Westfall, Ron Krehbiel, and Marge Roberson; City Commissioners Willis Heck, Kevin Pouch, Ken Hall, Raquel Thiessen, and Jim Nickel; EDC Director, Mickey Fornaro-Dean, and Developer, Troy Carlson; City of Newton staff, Tim Johnson, Counselor Bob Myers, Randy Riggs, Lunda Asmani, Gary Denny, Suzanne Loomis, Barbara Burns, Erin McDaniel, and Denise Duerksen; County staff, John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Representatives from the Economic Development Council and other interested people from the community were also in attendance.

John Waltner, Harvey County Administrator, thanked all those attending the meeting and expressed appreciation for the way in which the City of Newton and Harvey County have worked together to further this project. Randy Riggs, Newton City Administrator, reported that the road improvements planned for the Logistics Park are on schedule, the water system has been completed, and the sewer system is 67% complete. There continues to be a variety of issues concerning the short rail access, but Tindall Corporation is working with Watco, to resolve the remaining issues. Application has been made for an economic development grant in the amount of \$2.6 million to be used for road upgrades, and application for a TIGER grant in the amount of \$7.4 million has also been made.

Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Harvey County Economic Development Director, and Troy Carlson, Developer, gave an update on the development of the Kansas Logistics Park. Mr. Carlson pointed out that this is an important investment, stating that, by 2035, trade from developed countries will increase by 49% and in undeveloped countries by 84%. Because of the location of the Logistics Park, with rail access, highway access, and an available skilled workforce, this area could become a major transportation route through the central United States. Ms. Fornaro-Dean informed the group that there have been five prospective companies in the last four months that have expressed interest in locating facilities at the Kansas Logistics Park. These prospects represent \$216.2 million and 1,290 new jobs. Four of these prospects are wind energy related companies and one is a renewable energy company. Mr. Carlson stated that trade is the driver for world growth and transportation for the trade commodities will be critical. Trade routes are shifting and the Midwest is developing as a major corridor.

Dick Grenville, Director of Development for the Port of Catoosa, spoke about the development of trade routes in the Midwest. The Port of Catoosa is located on the Arkansas River system near Tulsa. The Panama Canal is being widened which will allow larger ships with larger cargo loads to pass through the canal in a much more timely manner. As trade routes further develop to accommodate the transportation of this trade, the need for the Logistics Park will definitely increase.

Jeff Lackey spoke as a representative from Trans Systems, which is a nationwide consulting and engineering company. Although the company is a new entrant into the wind energy sector, he stated that there is a keen eye on this part of the country because it is centralized in the middle of the country in proximity to many wind farms and related industry. There is a great deal of interest in placing manufacturing facilities here because of this central location and the existing highway and railway infrastructure. Trans Systems is finalizing a study for the Logistics Park, comparing this location to other possible locations. Consideration is given to waterways, proximity to wind facilities, infrastructure, and other issues. With all the factors taken into consideration, Newton has proven to be the number one location for the Logistics Park. This is a great opportunity for this area, with the highway and railway infrastructure and the availability of a skilled workforce.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:25 p.m.

At 5:40 p.m. Commissioner Roberson made a motion to go into executive session for a period of one hour to discuss economic development. Commissioner Krehbiel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ken Hall, Newton City Commissioner, made a motion to go into executive session for a period of one hour to discuss attorney/client privilege, client confidentiality data, and preliminary discussion relating to the acquisition of real property. Newton City Commissioner Jim Nickel seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. In addition to the Commissioners, also in attendance were Newton City staff members Randy Riggs, Lunda Asmani, and Counselor Bob Myers. Attending from the County were staff members John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Counselor Greg Nye, and Joyce Truskett. Also in attendance during the session were Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Troy Carlson, Jeff Lackey, Rick Windholz, Jeff Tucker, Linda Tiller, Allison Bergman, Richard Grenville, and Byron Warta. Executive session ended at 6:35 p.m. with no action being taken by either the City of Newton or Harvey County.

Randy Riggs asked if the County is comfortable with the information flow for the project. Both groups of Commissioners expressed that they appreciate updates on the project as it progresses. Mayor Heck stated that the Commissioners rely on John Waltner and Randy Riggs to call a joint meeting when there is new information available. Mickey reported that Troy Carlson will be traveling to Germany to attend a trade show to further the international connection that will be very important to the project. Mickey also presented new updated brochures for the Logistics Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

THE BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ron Krehbiel, Member

Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

Marge Roberson, Member