

January 31, 2018

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in special session for a Commission Retreat at 10:23 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at the Sternberg Museum Expeditions Room, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays, Kansas.

The Special Meeting had been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. but Commissioners Wasinger and Haselhorst attended a mass with future Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer at Thomas More Prep/Marian Chapel. Colyer is scheduled to take his oath of office as Kansas Governor at 3:00 p.m. today.

Chair Haselhorst called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

The facilitator for the day was Matt Allen, the Garden City Manager. He was named the 2017 Alumnus of the Year by Leadership Kansas and serves on the Kansas Health Foundation Board.

Commissioners present were: Chair Dean F. Haselhorst, Commissioner Marcy L. McClelland and Commissioner Barbara K. Wasinger.

Also present were County Administrator Phillip Smith-Hanes, County Counselor Bill Jeter and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus.

Facilitator Allen stated that he has visited with each Commissioner and today they will be looking at definable goals, priority projects, workforce, community issues and economic development.

Commissioners decided on two priorities to work on. The first priority is to improve the Public Works Department, and the second priority were the roads in the County.

The Public Works Building was constructed in the 1960's. Commissioners would like to look at remodeling or to construct a new structure. A cost estimate was given under \$2,000,000. The current County sales tax will sunset in October 2018. Commissioners did not feel that they would be ready for a vote to extend the sales tax this year.

Commissioners felt that the \$47,500, that was not used for economic development, be utilized for a building project at the Public Works Department. This amount is to be included in the 2019 Budget for Public Works.

Commissioners agreed and gave direction to Public Works Director Bill Ring to consider two options on a Public Works Department building: 1) remodel and add-on to the current Public Works Department Building and 2) a completely new structure. If a new structure then an offsite location for the Public Works Department would be needed during the construction work. Public Works Director Ring is to gather information and cost for these two options.

Commissioners felt that they do want to focus on the quality of County roads and consider renewing another half-cent sales tax for roads and general purposes. Road conditions do impact

economic development in our community. One project would be to include the upgrade of roads to Hess Oil Services on Highway 183.

It was felt to review the roads, and consider minimum maintenance on some roads.

Another concern was the County's 208 bridges and their condition.

Allen stated that the Commission needs to make a commitment and plan with twelve to eighteen month goals. The plan may involve other stakeholders. The plan will include determining a funding strategy.

The Commission retreat was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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DEAN F. HASELHORST, CHAIR

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MARTHA L. MCCLELLAND, COMMISSIONER

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BARBARA K. WASIGNER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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DONNA J. MASKUS, ELLIS COUNTY CLERK