

MONDAY

JULY 15, 2019

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in a Recessed City/County joint meeting in the Commission Room located in City Hall.

PRESENT:	Doug Meyer	Mayor
	Gary Schmidt	Commissioner
	Don Peters	Commissioner
	Zach Deeds	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Roy Eckert	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Probst	City Attorney
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Glenna Borho	County Commissioner
	Joe Reynolds	County Commissioner Chairman
	Tom Jones	County Commissioner
	Sherry Kruse	County Clerk
	Tyson Eisenhauer	County Counselor
	Jimmy White	Pratt County Sheriff

CALL TO ORDER:

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mayor Meyer. The Mayor instructed the City Clerk to note that all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Leslie.

Mayor Meyer reminded the audience that this meeting may be taped and/or recorded.

BUSINESS:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON WATERLINE TO COUNTY PROPERTY BY 54 PICK-UP:

Commissioner Borho stated that Mr. Mike Miller with KDWPT had called her last week to let her know that he could not be here. Commissioner Borho commented that Mr. Miller was in a meeting in Manhattan; however, he let her know that they had put their project on hold for now. Mayor Meyer questioned if it was because we were trying to make some changes. Commissioner Borho stated that that was not the issue, but it was the damage to State parks due to flooding and they had a lot to deal with right now. Commissioner Borho explained that Mr. Miller was new to his job and so was Secretary Loveless so they felt like they should put it on hold for a while. Commissioner Borho added that they did not give them a time frame.

Commissioner Borho asked if they could take where the water line was stubbed out over to their land at the County's expense. Mayor Meyer stated that they had agreed that the City would have no expense in that. Commissioner Borho questioned if it had to be looped. City Manager Eckert stated that there was something about chlorination that Water Superintendent Clay had told him about. Commissioner Borho stated that, at the point of deception until it comes back down, had to be twenty-four hours or less. Mayor Meyer commented that he did not know the answer to her question. Commissioner Schmidt commented that it might depend on how much water they were going to use there and if they were going to use enough to keep them going. Commissioner Schmidt added that that would take care of itself. County

Commissioner Reynolds stated that, with EMS and County Fire out there washing their vehicles, they should use enough water. Commissioner Schmidt commented that there would probably be some landscaping there that would also need water.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Meyer stated that he had gotten a text from Water Superintendent Clay that said that, if Wildlife and Parks were included, they would not have to loop it; however, if they were not, it would have to be studied. Mayor Meyer added that there could be issues with chlorination if no one else ties on to it.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON DISPATCH:

Commissioner Reynolds stated that the County Commission had discussed dispatch very seriously and they did not want to take it over. Commissioner Reynolds added that it was really not their part to take it over. Commissioner Reynolds commented that the City had been doing it for years and they know more about it. Commissioner Reynolds added that the County did not need to jump into something that the City had been doing.

Commissioner Jones stated that improvements were something that they needed to talk about together. Commissioner Peters asked if it was because we had done it all this time and they wanted to keep doing it this way. Commissioner Jones stated that they did not need to keep doing it the same way. Commissioner Peters commented that the City had all the expenses before. Commissioner Reynolds asked why the City wanted to change it all of a sudden. Commissioner Peters explained that the City pays about \$300,000 for dispatchers. Commissioner Peters questioned if most dispatch centers were under the County. Police Chief Humble stated that most Counties were set up that way. Commissioner Peters stated that there had to be a dispatch supervisor.

Commissioner Peters stated that he had thought that they were all in agreement that the County would take this over. Commissioner Reynolds stated that it was talked about, but they had not agreed to it. Commissioner Borho added that they had talked about it again in budget session to see what the pros and cons would be. Commissioner Borho explained that they all felt that, if the City wanted dispatch improved, they should hire a supervisor. Commissioner Borho commented that it was questionable how it would be run and where the authority would come from. Commissioner Borho stated that quality assurance and the supervisor were things the City felt needed to be changed. Chief Humble stated that, by State Statute, the board would consist of law enforcement and that would be who a Communications Director would report to.

Commissioner Deeds asked if 911 funds played a roll in this. Commissioner Borho stated that 911 funds had paid for a total equipment upgrade. Commissioner Borho added that 911 funds could only be used for specific things. Commissioner Borho commented that it brings in about \$70,000 a year. Commissioner Peters asked if the City had not purchased some equipment for dispatch. Commissioner Borho stated that the City purchased new furniture. Chief Humble stated that the City hosts the virtual machines on our server, problems with the computers and the phone recording system were things that the City takes care of. Commissioner Schmidt asked who the \$70,000 goes to. Commissioner Borho stated that it comes to the County. Commissioner Schmidt asked if the City gets reimbursed if that was what those funds were used for. Commissioner Reynolds explained that no one had ever come to them about this. Chief Humble stated that this was what the City had put into dispatch since these conversations started. Chief Humble explained that he had visited with Sheriff White and they now have their line that they pay for on the recording machines. Chief Humble explained that the LEC agreement states that the City was responsible for any leases or City entities and that we were to take care of them and the remaining part was the responsibility of the County. Commissioner Peters asked who had let this fall through the cracks. Chief Humble commented that it should have been the committee that was supposed

to meet semi-annually. City Attorney Probst stated that the committee met in 2017. Mayor Meyer stated that he appreciated Commissioner Reynolds' logic and he would come to the same conclusion if he was sitting there.

Mayor Meyer stated that the whole thing had given the City an opportunity to learn about the dispatch system. Mayor Meyer commented that they looked at what the City was paying for five employees and he thought that was equal to rent at the LEC. Mayor Meyer explained that he had contacted Real Estate Agent Vicki Maechtlein about leasing commercial space and she said it would be about \$8 to \$10 a square foot. Mayor Meyer commented that Chief Humble thought we had about 4,000 to 5,000 square feet and, at \$10,000 a year, that would be \$50,000. Mayor Meyer stated that he was looking out for the City, but he was also a County taxpayer and he wondered if the City was paying too much on our end for dispatch. Mayor Meyer explained that the City probably had about 80% of the calls, but the City was part of the County. Mayor Meyer stated that he felt they were all confused about what we were paying and why we were paying this much. Mayor Meyer commented that they wanted to look at a more equitable distribution of funds.

Mayor Meyer stated that Chief Humble wanted to get away from managing these employees and that was not in his job description. Mayor Meyer stated that there needed to be some adjustments to the LEC Agreement based on what the Commission had learned. Mayor Meyer clarified that the City was paying all expenses for personnel, managing everything pretty much for free and taking care of all the computer operation issues. Commissioner Reynolds stated that that was true, but what the City did not understand was that most calls were City related. Mayor Meyer agreed with that, but added that the City could contract it out with another County for a whole lot less than \$300,000 a year.

Mayor Meyer stated that everyone wants us to be together and he thought that we were. Mayor Meyer commented that we were fortunate that we were right together, but he felt that the City was paying too much. Mayor Meyer commented that he agreed that most calls were City calls; however, we were the biggest part of the County. Mayor Meyer stated that a call in the County was just as important as a call in the City. Mayor Meyer commented that he wanted to come to an equitable agreement without arguing. Mayor Meyer clarified that he felt the City was paying too much and that the County should pay more. Mayor Meyer added that this did not take into consideration the condition the guys were working in. Mayor Meyer stated that he did appreciate that they had brought in an architect and they thought it would take \$1 to \$2 million to fix up that building. Commissioner Borho stated that the County had to pay for everything. Mayor Meyer commented that it was a County building, but the City did contribute \$15,000 a year which was a penance to that. Mayor Meyer stated that things had to be addressed sooner or later. Mayor Meyer repeated that the City was paying a lot for a little piece of the building.

Commissioner Peters stated that there would be another \$60,000 to \$65,000 if we add a supervisor position, which was on top of what the City was already paying. Mayor Meyer stated that they all agreed that it was where it needed to be. Commissioner Reynolds questioned why the City thought they were paying too much after all this time. Mayor Meyer stated that that was shame on us, because we should not have let it go this long. Mayor Meyer commented that the Commissioners had not been educated enough to evaluate any of it. Mayor Meyer commented that they discovered they were paying too much once they started digging into the weeds. Mayor Meyer commented that he could appreciate it if they wanted to keep it where it was. Mayor Meyer explained that it could work better; however, it could also be more equitable as far as City taxpayers paying that portion.

Sheriff White stated that he charges Chief Humble only \$10 less per inmate and anything that was not a municipal charge, such as juvenile housing, drug crimes and felony charges that go through District Court, comes out of his budget. Sheriff White commented that there was a considerable amount of money saved there and there were other things that people did not see. City Attorney Probst stated that

the County Attorney was responsible for prosecuting those codes and the prisoners that the City pays for were related to violations of City ordinances. Sheriff White added that he also pays for the Highway Patrol's blood draws. Commissioner Schmidt asked if every County does that. Sheriff White stated that it was by Statute.

Commissioner Schmidt questioned what the County spends the \$70,000 911 funds on. Commissioner Reynolds stated that it was restricted and that you could not just buy anything. Commissioner Schmidt stated that he understood that, but he wanted to know how they had spent it. Sheriff White stated that it was best to have pre-approval before spending any of those funds. Commissioner Schmidt asked if those funds carry over. Sheriff White stated that he did not know, but he knew that they were very strict. Sheriff White added that he had never had anything to do with it. Mayor Meyer stated that he knew those funds were restricted and that the renovation was mutually agreed upon with the City paying for the furniture and the County buying the equipment; however, he did not think there was any discourse from that. Commissioner Borho stated that they had replaced other equipment since then at around \$115,000 to \$120,000. Commissioner Schmidt stated that he thought it was odd that the City had not gotten any of that money. Commissioner Borho explained that it comes to the County and was to be used for all the phones and every land line at \$.50 each; however, it was now \$.75 and included cell phones. Ms. Probst commented that the allocation of funds was probably why most Counties pay for dispatch to be under their authority. Ms. Probst explained that most Interlocal Agreements they had looked at had the Cities and Counties sharing cost on a more equitable basis. Ms. Probst commented that they had one entity paying the other entity the amount of two salaried employees, but the County typically holds that department. Finance Director Garten stated that those funds used to go to Mr. Mark McManaman and he had helped purchase some equipment.

Commissioner Borho stated that Article 8 Section 1 of the LEC Agreement states that the 'City shall establish, repair, replace and maintain all necessary base voice radio equipment in the dispatch center to permit dispatching and communication between the dispatcher located at the LEC and remote City law enforcement officers, City fire department members and other City departments. County will maintain a system including a device to acquire the City dispatch communications and transmit the same to remote receivers associated with the Pratt County Sheriff's Office, Pratt County Emergency Medical Services and other County departments'. Commissioner Borho pointed out that it was actually split at that time. Commissioner Borho commented that tower services and repeaters come out of the 911 funds and they had just replaced several of those.

Ms. Probst commented that the next section talks about the 911 funds. Commissioner Borho stated that tower services and repeaters come out of the 911 funds. Commissioner Borho commented that they had just replaced seven repeaters and new radios for everyone in the County costing \$200,000, which included City fire and that was not 911 funds. Sheriff White clarified that he did not think that that included City fire. Chief Humble stated that they buy their own radios and were on our own digital system, but we do host on our own server some of the County's end of some of this equipment. Mr. Mike Laclair stated that the virtual machines and the two computers that were in dispatch were purchased by the City. Chief Humble commented that those should fall under the 911 funds. Commissioner Borho asked if they told Sheriff White about it. Chief Humble stated that that was some time ago that they had those needs. Commissioner Borho explained that Mr. Mike Tibbets was over the 911 funds now.

County Attorney Eisenhauer asked what the cost of the server was. Sheriff White stated that it was about \$25,000. Mr. Laclair stated that dispatch was only using about 20% of the server, so you could say about \$5,000 for a basic server. Ms. Probst stated that Chief Humble was not comfortable supervising a department that he was not an expert in and it would be the best service provided if they were their own department. Ms. Probst added that there were a lot of Statutory requirements and regulations that Chief Humble would have to get up to speed on to properly supervise them, so that was why he had opened up

the discussion on it being its own department with a department head. Ms. Probst explained that, when looking at it as a City, most Counties were the entities that had 911 and the County would still have to have 24-hour employee dispatch if the City and County were not together. Ms. Probst stated that the City could not afford another department head position and the Interlocal Agreement had several inequities and that was what the Commissioners were wanting to address with the County. Ms. Probst commented that \$300,000 plus an additional employee and half the utilities for a building that we only occupy 25% of. Commissioner Reynolds stated that the utilities must be pretty high. Commissioner Deeds asked if the detention area used the bulk of that. Chief Humble stated that it was. Commissioner Deeds questioned if that area was billed separately. City Clerk stated that she thought there was one meter for the building. Chief Humble stated that 15% to 20% of the utilities was probably used by the City.

Mayor Meyer questioned how the City could pay less if we hired a department head for dispatch and occupy the same space or if they were they willing to discuss that. Commissioner Borho stated that she sees how the City wants to throw this all on the County, because it would be a better deal for the mil levy; however, it still would come over to the County. Commissioner Borho commented that every other Chief of Police could dispatch. Commissioner Borho stated that maybe they needed to look at the utility rate, but there was good cooperation between the two entities so it may need a lot more discussing. Commissioner Borho questioned if the City left in the \$300,000 in their 2020 budget. Mayor Meyer stated that they did. Commissioner Borho suggested that they do a lot more research on what 911 has paid for in the past ten years. Commissioner Borho commented that Mr. Shawn Harding's design was supposed to give the City some additional space and make more space for the records.

Commissioner Borho stated that they were all under the gun budget wise to quickly make a decision and try to change all of this. Mayor Meyer commented that they were not making a decision quickly. Commissioner Jones agreed and stated that they needed to see what everything cost and then everyone could be on the same page. Commissioner Jones added that he was not saying one way or another, because it needed more discussion. Mayor Meyer agreed, but added that this was a starting point. Mayor Meyer added that, in his heart, this was not equitable to the taxpayers of the City to pay that large a portion for dispatch. Mayor Meyer explained that, by mandate, the County had to provide it; however, the City provides it right now. Mayor Meyer stated that, one way or another, the County had to see that it was done and that way was through the City. Mayor Meyer stated that the City had taken a step back and looked at all the costs and he felt the City was paying too much for dispatch on our share.

Commissioner Peters asked if the County had finalized their budget. Commissioner Borho stated that they had not. Commissioner Peters suggested that the County put the department head in their budget for this coming year. Commissioner Borho commented that you would have a County employee over a City employee. Ms. Probst stated that the Interlocal Agreement would handle that by stating that the entity not in charge of dispatch would provide the amount of money for the salary and benefits to the entity in charge of dispatch. Ms. Probst added that Reno County gives the City the equivalent of one or two salaried positions including benefits. Ms. Probst commented that they would still be City employees. Commissioner Peters asked if they would consider that. Commissioner Borho stated that she was in agreement if they were going to do quality assurance on the runs. Chief Humble stated that the Interlocal Agreement had not been followed and it was his responsibility as the new Chief to manage his budget. Chief Humble commented that he was reviewing the Agreement and brought this to his boss and he did not feel he did anything out of line.

Mayor Meyer stated that one of the keys was to get the committee started sooner than later. Mayor Meyer asked if the County was in agreement that the Interlocal Agreement could be modified to some extent. Sheriff White commented that the utilities for the basement were for both entities and they all had free access to it anytime, which included the weight room, classroom and records room. Mayor Meyer stated that he understood how the ones before now thought that dividing the utilities in half was the decent thing

to do and we were not talking about a huge sum of money like the dispatch salaries. Sheriff White commented that his views were different than those before him and he was not going to tell the City where they could and could not go, because it was the Law Enforcement Center. Mayor Meyer stated that it was thoughts like that that would make this all work. Ms. Probst stated that K.S.A. 12-2908 was amended in 2017 and our Interlocal Agreement can be amended without the Attorney General's approval. Mayor Meyer commented that no decision would be made today and the worse case scenario would be a year. Mayor Meyer stated that the City was pretty firm that we did not want to pay as much as we were now. Commissioner Borho stated that they did not want to pay \$2 or \$3 million to improve the building either. Mayor Meyer stated that he knew it takes a lot of money; however, the City could go build their own, but the taxpayers would not think to highly of that. Commissioner Borho explained that the City taxpayers were either going to pay through the City or on their County bills. Mayor Meyer commented that it was a real eye opener to sit up here and find out how much money it takes to run a City or County. Mayor Meyer stated that Chief Humble was thinking outside the box and some things you do not want to change and some needed to be changed gradually.

Commissioner Borho stated that, if this department head was hired, they needed to be responsible to either the Police Chief or the Committee. Mayor Meyer agreed that they needed to go to someone immediately for the day to day operations. Sheriff White added that they would also need to know to go to the County Commissioners when they needed 911 funds. Mayor Meyer stated that they knew that now.

Chief Humble stated that the board would consist of the City Chief of Police, Sheriff, County and City attorneys, the EMS Director and City and County Fire Chiefs. Ms. Probst commented that the Communication Advisory Board did not have a Statutory requirement that she could see, but there would be a representative from each group.

Mayor Meyer asked if it was too late to work a full-time employee in to the 2020 budget. Finance Director Garten stated that the bottom line would be raising the taxes higher or two to three mils on the City level. Mayor Meyer questioned whether the County would pay for half the employee. Commissioner Jones stated that that would be around \$30,000 to \$35,000. Ms. Garten commented that that was about a City mil. Commissioner Deeds asked who the chair was for the LEC Committee. Commissioner Borho stated that she was at their last meeting in 2017. Commissioner Deeds asked why we could not rally those members. Commissioner Borho explained that they usually met when something came up and there was an agenda. Commissioner Deeds stated that there were things to talk about now. Mayor Meyer commented that we would need to develop a job description. Mayor Meyer asked if there was someone on staff that could assume that position. Chief Humble stated that there was. Commissioner Borho stated that she did not want to rush and put someone in that position, because you needed a job description, figure out the financial part and go out for applications so that you get someone that is qualified. Mayor Meyer asked if this could be a blended position where they dispatch three days a week and supervise two. Chief Humble stated that that could be worked out.

Commissioner Reynolds suggested that everything be put out in writing and include the things that Sheriff White had talked about. Ms. Probst clarified that City prisoners were in the County jail because they violated a City ordinance. Ms. Probst stated that the other prisoners were expected to be housed by the County and along with any cases that were prosecuted by the County Attorney. Commissioner Reynolds stated that the State makes the County pay and that was not right. Ms. Probst explained that the City could not prosecute any felonies. Commissioner Reynolds clarified that he was talking about who picks them up. Sheriff White stated that he pays for those because it was a Statutory obligation. Sheriff White commented that there were things the County had to pay for that he did not want to get overlooked due to those Statutory requirements.

Ms. Probst stated that she was not comfortable ignoring Chief Humble's request for another year and a half, so she asked that each entity put aside some money in their 2020 budget to accommodate that supervisor position. Ms. Probst added that the money would be there just like it was for an Economic Development Director a few years ago. Commissioner Borho stated that she was looking at a time to get back together and not wait a year and a half. Commissioner Borho added that she did not want to see someone promoted that you may be sorry for later. Chief Humble stated that it would be an application process. Chief Humble commented that he also had a draft of the job description if it got to that point. Mayor Meyer commented that this could be finalized by January 1. Ms. Garten stated that the City's public hearing for the budget was August 5th. Commissioner Borho stated that they would discuss whether they wanted to add half the person into their 2020 budget. Mayor Meyer stated that he would not ask for a vote, but the consensus was that they would fund half of the full-time employee. Commissioner Borho stated that she was willing to share the cost of the supervisory person chosen by the application process for January 1st. Commissioner Reynolds agreed as long as it was by the application process so that they get someone who is qualified. Mayor Meyer agreed also and added that they had to have that money appropriated.

Commissioner Schmidt stated that he felt we needed to get the Committee put together now. Commissioner Deeds stated that the Law Enforcement Agreement Committee had not met for a while. Ms. Probst stated that they could set a meeting now since Chief Humble, Sheriff White, a County Commissioner, a City Commissioner and the attorneys were present. Commissioner Borho asked if these meetings were going to be held during the work day since it was difficult for Commissioner Leslie to attend meetings during the day. Mayor Meyer stated that they would visit with Commissioner Leslie to be sure he could attend. Mr. Eisenhower commented that he would like to have the numbers so he would know what was going on and so that they would have something else to talk about besides what had been talked about today. Commissioner Borho stated that Chief Humble had the numbers for the Communications Advisory Board. Mr. Eisenhower stated that he did not know what else the Committee was going to talk about unless we had that information. Commissioner Deeds stated that it would be things that had been discovered through the process. Mr. Eisenhower commented that the Committee should be doing that instead of these two entities and numbers would be good to have.

NEXT MEETING:

The next City/County joint meeting was set for August 19th at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Meyer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

Doug Meyer, Mayor



ATTEST:

8 – July 15, 2019 (Recessed City/County Joint meeting)

LuAnn Kramer, City Clerk