

April 23, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE) §
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CITY OF ALLIANCE)

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Joint Meeting, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 a.m., at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center, 908 Yellowstone Avenue, Alliance. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on April 16, 2015. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk in the Municipal Building.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Yeager, Council Members Feldges, Jones and Korber-Gonzalez. Also present were City Manager Cox, Assistant City Manager Waggener, and City Clerk Jines. Representing the Box Butte County Commissioners were members Lore and McGinnis; as well as County Clerk Messersmith.

The Special Meeting began with Mayor Yeager and Chairman Lore opening the meeting for their respective Boards. Mayor Yeager made the Open Meetings Law announcement and indicated the required posting was displayed on the stand against the north wall of the room.

- A motion was made by Councilman Feldges, seconded by Councilman Jones to excuse the absence of Councilman Seiler as he was out of town.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Korber-Gonzalez, Feldges, Yeager, Jones.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The Task Force that was established to explore the possibility of consolidating Communications/Dispatching for both law enforcement agencies provided an update. The Task Force consists of the Box Butte County Sheriff or her representative, the Alliance Police Chief or his representative, Box Butte County Commissioner Hashman, Alliance City Council Members Korber-Gonzalez and Jones, Box Butte County Senior Dispatcher Brown, Alliance Dispatch Supervisor Dahlberg and City Finance Director Waggener. Speaking on behalf of the Task Force was Councilman Jones.

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The Task Force held their first meeting on March 17th and reviewed the pros and cons to consolidation. Consolidation is not being recommended to be implemented at this, as it is not financially beneficial; however the Task Force will continue to meet in order to have a plan prepared when it will be beneficial to consolidate the service. The Task Force believes consolidation will be feasible in approximately five years, depending on when the equipment will need to be replaced, which will provide the cost savings. One benefit for recommending a delay for the consolidation is to remove the uncertainty for the dispatchers regarding who will be their employer. It has been suggested that this uncertainty has had a negative impact in recruiting the positions for both departments. It was also noted that the wage differential between the agencies poses a problem as the City's has higher wages. Raising the County wages will cause internal inequities for the County as entry level deputies would be paid less than dispatchers.

The Task Force would like to continue to meet on a regular basis to develop a plan which would include a larger area for a Regional Center. They would like to seek interest from the law enforcement agencies in Dawes and Sioux Counties and possibly others. Initially they believe a separate facility from the law enforcement agencies would be more favorable. The Task Force will also spend time reviewing the best option for the oversight/responsibility of the services; it may be desirable to have a separate entity created instead of having it either the City or County. By developing the plan now and securing the interest of the surrounding agencies it will allow all the parties involved to anticipate their future needs and make decisions accordingly. The Task Force is also hopeful that grant funding may be available, and the involvement of additional agencies may increase the availability of funding sources. Other areas which will need to be addressed in the planning process are the recording system which will be utilized as two different systems are currently in operation, and the ability to have radio communications between all the agencies.

Councilman Jones stated that he would also research possible solutions to address the immediate needs between the City and the County to transfer phone calls. He initially thought there might be a simple solution; however he has incurred some road blocks which he is currently reviewing.

A motion to grant the Task Force permission to contact area law enforcement agencies and pursue and promote interest in a regional communications center and to include this concept in the City's long range plan was made by Councilman Feldges. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager and Jones.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

The Box Butte County Commissioners made a similar motion which was approved by the two members attending.

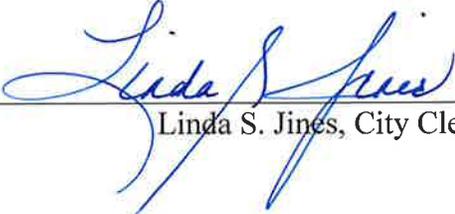
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- The last item on the agenda was public comment time. Commissioner Lore thanked the City of Alliance for their efforts to assume the responsibility for the public transit service. Commissioner McGinnis asked when the airport runway project would begin and was informed it is scheduled for early June.
- The next joint meeting will be scheduled sometime this Fall.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:44 a.m.

(SEAL)



Ralph Yeager, Mayor



Linda S. Jines, City Clerk

