

**JOINT MEETING OF THE FINNEY COUNTY, GARDEN CITY, AND  
HOLCOMB COMMISSIONS**

May 7, 2013

Mayor Fankhauser opened the joint meeting at the City Administrative Center at 11:00 a.m. on May 7, 2013. All Finney County and Garden City Commission members were present. Holcomb City Administrator/City Clerk Robin Pena and Mayor Gary Newman were also present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following issues:

**City of Garden City Issues**

*Regional Water Strategies:*

City Manager Allen discussed the issue of declining water quality in the upper Arkansas River basin, and the potential for a regional collaborative effort for public water supply from Garden City to the state line. The City is working with a property owner east of town on a watermain extension that could help address water supply needs in some of the nearby rural developments. Mark Rude, Groundwater Management District # 3, discussed other major water issues, including an aqueduct system from northeast Kansas from the Missouri River.

*Joint Wastewater Maintenance:*

Public Utilities Director Muirhead discussed the possibility of a joint wastewater maintenance program with the County and Holcomb. The City is currently in the second year with Mayer Specialties Service, Goddard, Kansas for line maintenance. The service program provides for the cleaning of all sewer lines during a three-year period with a report back on any cracks or areas of concern that need to be addressed by the City. This program does not include sewer lifts.

City of Holcomb is currently under contract with Mayer Specialties Services.

The city will make contact with Mayer Specialties Services on the possibility of renegotiating a contract.

**Finney County Issues**

*Jennie Barker Road:*

County Administrator Partington discussed the issue of improving Jennie Barker Road from Schulman Avenue north to Highway 156. The County currently has partial funding in the special highway fund for their 2015 Capital Improvement budget but this falls short of the engineer's estimate for the project. The last cost estimate was for approximately \$3 million to complete the project and does not include engineering costs.

*Industrial Park / Joint City of Garden City and County funds:*

County Administrator Partington asked the group if there was an interest to build or develop in the northwest industrial area. A question was asked as to the procedure when an opportunity presents itself: Is there a need for a special meeting of each entity or is it in the County's hands? It was agreed that the decision was at County Commission meeting and if the City was concerned, they would attend the meeting and object if necessary. No further discussion is needed.

*Community Development – (planning, zoning & permits):*

County Commissioner Jones asked if there could be a checklist made for new companies interested in coming to the area. Community Development Director Kentner stated there is not a "checklist" on ordinances, resolutions or waivers for businesses, but his office has always had a good relationship with Economic Development.

*Water Quality issue at LEC*

County Administrator Partington addressed the issue of water quality at the Law Enforcement Center, and their staff believes the issue is within the City's line. The City will run a test on the water from the City line from the mainline into the building and then from different faucets within the building to help diagnose the problem. LEC, and their staff wants to test City water lines prior to committing \$70k on a possible fix.

*Airport:*

Commissioner Mayo reported that Randy Williams, Garden City Ammonia, has asked if it's possible to get additional flights on the weekends to Garden City from American Airlines. Mayor Fankhauser suggested having larger planes come to Garden City. The flight schedule is a private matter handled by American Airlines.

**City of Holcomb Issues**

*Intercommunity Bike/Ped Trail*

Public Works Director Curran and Garden City officials have spoken with Burlington Northern Railroad about using their right-of-way for a trail, and they reported that the results were not positive. Mark Rude, Groundwater Management stated there might be up to \$250,000 in grant funding available for a similar project; however, it would have to be closer to the river.

**Other issues**

Future discussion of LEC Sales Tax – Sunset expected in fall 2014

Finance Director Hitz asked the group if there was a plan on the reauthorizing that sales tax. The group had the following ideas:

- Road improvements
- Intercommunity Bike/Ped trail
- Joint project on Jennie Barker Road improvements north of Schulman Avenue

Mark Rude, Groundwater Management discussed with the group that their offices have been working with the Kansas Water Office on the quality and quantity of water in Southwest Kansas.

Mayor Newman stated that Holcomb received a letter from the Governor on water conservation and asked what, if anything, the other entities will be enforcing. Public Utilities Director Muirhead stated that the City has an ordinance that they are currently reviewing along with the letter from the Governor's office.

Commissioner Doll asked if there were any plans to put sirens in the Highlands Addition in the County. County officials stated they do not have sirens out in the county, as there could be distance problems. Commissioner Jones suggested the purchase of weather radios.

There being no further business, Mayor Fankhauser declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Celyn N. Hurtado  
City Clerk