

Kimball City Council
Joint meeting with Kimball County Commissioners
August 11, 2015

A joint meeting of the Mayor and City Council and Kimball County Commissioners was convened in open and public session immediately following the Kimball City/County Park & Recreation Executive Board meeting on August 11, 2015 at the City Council Chambers. Mayor Prunty called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mayor Prunty and Council members Warner, Schnell, Shields and Morrison were present. Also present were City Administrator Ortiz, Landfill Superintendent Schulte, City Clerk Russell, and City Treasurer Sisk. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public except as otherwise indicated.

Also present were County Commissioners Tim Nolting, Daria Anderson-Faden and Larry Engstrom, County Attorney Dave Wilson, and County Clerk Cathy Sibal.

Prunty acknowledged the open meetings act poster.

Prunty opened discussion of shared expenses between the City and the County. Nolting said everyone is in the process of budgeting and it is painful. There comes a point where the only things you can cut, unless it is services, is people. He spoke about combining the police forces and the dollars that could be saved. Nolting has done some research on police force manpower. He said if everyone put their heads together and really took a look at what they have and combine the City and County police, there could be some significant savings. Everyone needs to think about this and set some sort of a true planning session. Prunty said his main concern is where the authority goes and Schnell said it would have to be a sheriff's system, in accordance with State Statute, if it is going to be combined.

Prunty said the City and County forces are cooperating very well right now; however, he acknowledged there were some issues in the past. Sibal commented that Bridgeport has gone this route. Schnell inquired about the costs and Wilson said he is sure there would have to be an interlocal agreement between the City and County. Sibal commented on the City budget for the police force and suggested it be part of the amount in the interlocal agreement.

Warner inquired if it is true that there is no one that the sheriff is accountable to and Engstrom said the sheriff's office has to present a budget to the County. Sibal indicated they are accountable as elected officials to the general public.

Nolting thinks the County has a good force and the City has a good force. He heard that there are more officers now on the force than there were in the 1950's or 1960's. Shields commented that they would have to look at the number of calls and what they are spending. He agreed that it would probably need to be looked at to an extent. Morrison said if people are going to expect 24/7 coverage, there will need to be a certain amount of officers.

Nolting would be willing to be the delegate from the County to do the study and Morrison volunteered to be the delegate from the City.

Ortiz said to look at the other counties that have done this and inquire if they are just enforcing the County codes or if they are also enforcing the City codes. Nolting said Bushnell adopted the State of Nebraska codes. There had been some discussion on the County patrolling other Villages.

There being no further business, Shields moved and Warner seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Roll: Aye: Warner, Schnell, Shields, and Morrison. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Keith B. Prunty, Mayor

Rosemarie Russell, City Clerk