

February 20, 2019

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in special session for a Commission Retreat at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at the Victoria Fire Station, 300 East Main Street, Victoria, Kansas.

Chair Haselhorst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The facilitators for the day were Misty Bruckner and Matt Stiles from the Public Policy and Management Center at Wichita State University.

Commissioners present were: Chair Dean F. Haselhorst, Commissioner Dustin G. Roths and Commissioner Robert "Butch" Schlyer.

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

Others present were: Information Technology Director Mike Leiker, County Attorney Tom Drees, Fire and Emergency Services Director Darin Myers, Emergency Medical Services Director Kerry McCue, Public Works Director Bill Ring, Appraiser Lisa Ree, Noxious Weed Director Gary Haas and Landfill Foreman Vernon Ruder.

A 2019 Work Plan was discussed with the following key points as compiled by Wichita State personnel:

Service Model – fee and rate study

- comprehensive list of fees and rates to review
- cost recovery metrics for comparison
- economic impact of changing fees and services
- peer County comparison

Service Model – contracting for service

- full cost comparison (including benefit costs)
- service level expectations
- options to move forward

Service Model – data analysis project

- measuring actual use
- measuring service levels
- cost account for services
- public impact analysis of potential changes

Potential Sales Tax – informational report

- legal basis
- general vs. dedicated
- options for what it could be used for
- sunset and time frame for tax
- options for dates or timing

Potential Sales Tax – whether to move forward

- partner engagement
- public information plan

Budget – examine expenditures

- engage in process
- service inventory and impact of possible cuts
- service priorities and safety, develop a criteria
- citizen expectations and willingness to pay
- contracting options

Budget – examine revenues

- explore potential partnerships
- explore potential revenue streams

Economic Development – County’s role

- financial impact to County with City of Hays
- formally define County’s role in Economic Development

Employment and Hiring – focus on hiring and retaining technical positions, degree, required positions and part-time positions

- review flexibility with pay, benefit and package options
- explore “grow your own” training or options to reduce barriers (as Public Works CDL license)
- maintain good employees

Chair Haselhorst thanked the Wichita State personnel for working with Ellis County. He felt that this is a great start as we work through the financial situation. He thanked everyone for joining the Retreat Session.

The Commission retreat was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEAN F. HASELHORST, CHAIR

DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

ROBERT ‘BUTCH’ SCHLYER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DONNA J. MASKUS, ELLIS COUNTY CLERK