

June 17, 2005

The scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order this 17th day of June, 2005, in the conference room of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 605 E. Robinson, Norman, Oklahoma, by Chairman George Skinner. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

George Skinner, Chairman
Leroy Krohmer, Vice-Chairman
Bill Graves, Member
Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary

Others present were: Christine Brannon, Mike McDanel, John Hancock, Eddie Thomason, Rhonda Peterson, Tammy Howard, and Dan Cary.

Chairman Skinner began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Leroy Krohmer moved, seconded by Bill Graves, to approve the Appointment of the following members to the Cleveland County Jail Committee.

- a. Rick Runyon
- b. Jim Helm
- c. David Hopper
- d. Waldo Blanton
- e. Ben Benedum

The vote was: George Skinner, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Bill Graves, yes.
Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed meeting schedules for the New Jail Committee and setting up some guidelines. A meeting will be set up in a couple of weeks to get the Committee together. Chairman Skinner has started a list of guidelines and welcomed the others guidelines. A time limit as to when the Committee is to have a report to the Commissioners was discussed and Chairman Skinner stated it would be a while before there could be a bond election because you are going to have to find a place to put a jail and develop a plan so you will know how much it is going to cost.

Leroy Krohmer asked about leasing of property at the State Hospital and wanted to know if who was going to talk to the State about this.

Chairman Skinner thought that the Commissioners ought to include the Committee in it and if the State can't come down here maybe some of the Committee Members can go up to the State with the Commissioners.

The Committee can only make recommendations and Mr. Krohmer number one recommendation would be for the Committee to concentrate on State Hospital Property as he thinks that can be donated.

Chairman Skinner stated that Don Bowen, Director of the State Hospital, talked favorable about it.

Phil Smalley Center was discussed and Hope Hall was discussed in length. John Hancock, Assistant District Attorney, thought money might be better spent on new construction rather than trying to redo. Mr. Hancock is not sure that any of the issues with Hope Hall are overwhelming and he doesn't think it takes the building out of consideration, but he thinks the issues are going to have to be looked at pretty seriously and the cost associated with them.

Leroy Krohmer suggested that the Commissioners get the plans for Hope Hall and have an architect look at them.

Bill Graves thinks the money that is spent redoing a building at Griffin and the money that is going to be spent in Pottawatomie County is money down the drain when the Commissioners need to be concentrating on how to get the money and to finance an addition to the jail we presently have.

Chairman Skinner asked about what was going to be done with the prisoners in the meantime?

Mr. Graves stated that the Sheriff is going to have to monitor that closely and try to keep the number of prisoners down where it is not excessive.

Leroy Krohmer doesn't think the County has any choice in getting the prisoner out of the jail pretty quick.

Mike McDanel, Assistant District Attorney, thinks that the primary goal as far as the conversations he has had with Mr. Gardenhire and with Mr. Garrison present, is that there is a plan in place that's a reasonable plan for the future of housing prisoners in Cleveland County. He thinks the Pottawatomie County situation is appropriate because there's got to be some relief fairly quickly and he doesn't know of any other way to do it. He thinks the primary concern is to insure that there is progress on a reasonable good faith plan to resolve this, whether it be a year or five years from now as long as they think it is something they believe we are doing the best we can to get it done. Mr. McDanel thinks it might be appropriate for the Committee to go through the jail and the Committee needs to see the slide presentation that the Commissioners had seen so they will have some idea as to what the Sheriff has looked into at this point. It might give them a idea of what they have to look forward to before their first formal meeting and he hopes their first formal meeting is not more than a couple of weeks away. It might be appropriate for the Commissioners to make some preliminary report to Don Garrison in the meantime in the form of a letter.

Bill Graves thinks that contract's with the Cities and Towns in Cleveland County to house prisoners needs to be rewritten. It is costing the County more to house prisoners then what the County is charging Sheriff's Beggs told Chairman Skinner the other day he would get figures together. The Judges then need to approve it and the interlocal agreements need to be changed to that amount.

Mr. McDanel stated that could also affect the amount of jail reimbursement that the prisoners pay as part of their cost.

Leroy Krohmer thinks the first thing that needs to be done is to have the Committee elect a Chairman.

Mike McDanel stated that the Committee needed to be aware that they are going to have to abide by the open meetings act.

Chairman Skinner asked Mike McDanel to draft a letter to Don Garrison for his signature and Leroy Krohmer, Vice-Chairman could sign if Chairman Skinner is away.

Mr. McDanel thinks Mr. Garrison and Mr. Gardenhire needs to hear soon something in a formal way.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Bill Graves moved that the meeting be adjourned. George Skinner seconded the motion.

The vote was: George Skinner, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes; Bill Graves, yes.

Motion carried.