

April 25, 2007

The scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order this 25th day of April, 2007, in the conference room of the Cleveland County Office Building by Chairman George Skinner. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

George Skinner, Chairman
Rusty Sullivan, Vice-Chairman
Mark Meyer, Member
Dorinda Harvey, Secretary

Others present were: Tammy Howard, Christine Brannon, David Batton, David Brockman, Donald Graham, Denise Ellison, Osher Bachrach, Richard Casey, Ty Hardiman, Linda Hogan, Kendall Parrish, Peggy Laizure, Scott Carter, David Hopper, Dwight Smith, Debi Castro, F. DeWayne Beggs, John Murrell, Doug Blaine, Eric Fleshe, John Angier, Don Cunningham, Barbara Cunningham, Ruby Graham, John Fletcher, Gail Fletcher, Helen Swall, Neil Vickers, Steve Stice, Doug Arnett, Ronald Stevens, Kammie Weiher, Rebecca Rice, Greg Jungman, Jim Helm, Omer Stephenson, Helen Stephenson, Lindsay Bailey, Larry Stephenson, Christian Price, Virgil Holden, Jerilyn Davis, Glenn Floyd, Jeff Raley, Tom Thompson, Ben Graves, Shelly Lloyd, Kay Stevens, Glynda Baird, Joyce Green, Glen Cosper, James Tyree, Sharon Mussatto, and Kevin Ellis.

Chairman Skinner began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Skinner welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that everyone that wishes to speak will be able to. The comments have to be limited to two (2) minutes.

Chairman Skinner stated he had been looking at another location for the last six (6) weeks and he is very close to having one, if this property can be purchased and can be built on. Senator Nichols told Chairman Skinner he would drop Senate Bill 896. Chairman Skinner stated if Senate Bill 896 passed it would kill both locations and the Commissioners would have to build either a high-rise jail downtown or out by Joseph Harp Penitentiary, which is eight (8) miles east of Lexington.

Chairman Skinner asked for those who wanted to speak to please come up to the podium and state their name before they started.

Several citizens spoke both for and against this issue of the purchase of this piece of property. Different opinions were heard and statements made: From putting the jail directly behind the County Office Building in the parking lot; the property values and quality of life being substantially impacted if a jail were built on this piece of property; the process issue was discussed; a petition was presented to the Board; if Senate Bill 896 passes the County could not build a jail on this site; traffic problems; the jail being located as you come into Norman; the expense of operating 2 facilities; and safety concerns.

Chairman Skinner told the audience wherever a jail is built the off site will be for medium and low security. The maximum security prisoners will be kept at the present jail.

Rusty Sullivan spoke about video visitation and the visitors will not go to the jail location. Other opinions were: This has been studied for several years, the Board needs to build one somewhere; a couple of others feel the State Legislature is trying to force the Board into building at a different location.

Chairman Skinner stated that he had spoken to the Senator about Senate Bill 896 and if the other property that Chairman Skinner had spoken about can be purchased the Senator will drop Senate Bill 896. If not, the bill will be voted on next week.

A citizen asked the Board if they were going to vote to purchase this piece of property today? Rusty Sullivan stated what the Board is going to do is make an offer but there is an option of forty-five (45) days before the Board has to act on it. If Senate Bill 896 passes and a jail can't be built on it, the land is still a very good piece of property for the county to own for further growth.

Chairman Skinner told the audience of the two other sites, one on north campus and the other downtown. Mr. Skinner was asked about the Joseph Harp penitentiary and he stated it would be about the only place the Commissioner's could find that is not going to be within a half mile of someone.

Chairman Skinner called for discussion, consideration and/or action upon a resolution authorizing the purchase by Cleveland County of approximately 28.92 acres more or less of unimproved real estate located in Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, further described as 11-9-3W PRT NE/4 BEG 50'W NE/C S1168.5' N 73D W1162.46' N 17D W179.63' S 72D W70' N 17D W699.06' E1435.35' POB, for the purchase price of \$1,300,000.00, and authorizing the execution by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board for a Real Estate Purchase Contract by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Cleveland County and Johnson Controls, Inc., a Wisconsin Corporation as successor in interest to York International Corporation.

Rusty Sullivan moved, seconded by Mark Meyer, to authorize the purchase.

The vote was: George Skinner, no; Rusty Sullivan, yes; Mark Meyer, yes.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Rusty Sullivan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mark Meyer seconded the motion.

The vote was: George Skinner, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes; Mark Meyer, yes.

Motion carried.