

July 27, 2021  
Reno County Annex  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special joint City/County meeting with the City of Hutchinson. Present were Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, Reno County Sheriff Darrian Campbell, and County Clerk Donna Patton. Attending from the City of Hutchinson were City Attorney Paul Brown, Chief of Police Jeff Hooper, City Manager Jeff Cantrell, and Council Members, Nancy Soldner, Steven Garza (Mayor), Jon Daveline, Sara Bagwell and Jade Piros de Carvalo.

Mr. Hirst welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Garza said he was glad everyone could attend.

Mr. Partington went over the agenda and commented that Discussion Items ii Law Enforcement Center and iii Emergency Communications were removed because they are agreements and will be addressed internally and administratively. Mr. Partington stated that there will be some changes because the agreements are outdated and will be available later in the year. He will work with Sheriff Campbell on the contracts and keep the Board updated.

Mr. Partington spoke about the gun range issues. Initially the City of Hutchinson proposed a contract and the BOCC sent back two proposals. He mentioned that it was jointly agreed upon to have two gun ranges in two different areas with two different specialties. Both HPD and the Sheriff's Office will use the facilities to train together. Reno County has property that could be used to build a gun range that wouldn't conflict with Chief Hooper and the City's needs. Since there are two different specialties there would be no duplication of the training facilities. Reno County will use the \$15,000 that they budget annually to build their facility and the City will use the \$10,000 that they budget annually for the upkeep to their facility.

Sheriff Campbell commented that they will be able to train for long range precision at the new location that isn't currently available.

Chief Hooper agreed, and said that they are two different locations with two training capabilities, and they can train simultaneously at both locations.

Ms. Piros de Carvalho asked if training together will ever occur, and Chief Hooper said they are training together now.

Ms. Bagwell asked Sheriff Campbell if he would ever consider rejoining the ERT team with the City, and he said not at this time.

Chief Hooper and Sheriff Campbell stated that they will always be committed to working together.

Mr. Daveline asked if there will be a contract between HPD and the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Campbell said he didn't think a contract was necessary, but a MOU would cover everything they would need.

Ms. Bagwell commented about an incident when HPD called in Harvey County's ERT to help instead of Reno County's. Mr. Sellers asked if Chief Hooper would explain his decision.

Chief Hooper said that the team had recently broken up and he didn't know how the Sheriff's Office team members had been trained because they weren't training with HPD. He indicated it was nothing against the Sheriff's Office, he just didn't have time to make sure they were trained properly. Sheriff Campbell said he was upset about the decision and visited with Chief Hooper about the situation and their qualifications.

Chief Hooper and Sheriff Campbell both stated that they may disagree on administrative issues, but we have never waived in our commitment to the public.

Ms. Bagwell stated that there will be two ranges, one long range and one for everything else, no joint task force but they will work and train together and two separate ranges and each are in control of their ranges.

Chief Hooper said yes that was correct. He added that if there is a tactical callout in the City, HPD will be in command and if there is a tactical callout in the County, SO will be in command, which is the way it is now.

Mr. Sellers asked about the reorganization of the 911 dispatch going from 3 to 9 consoles.

Chief Hooper said that they were needing to meet the National Standards and that is what they needed to do. In 2013 the discussion had begun about the reorganization. He thought there was a person from Reno County each time the Advisory Board met and that they would convey the findings to the BOCC. He apologized for not informing the BOCC of the budget increase.

Mr. Sellers said that they did not know about the reorganization and the substantial increase in the budget. It was his understanding that the Advisory Board drafted their budget, sent it to the City Manager and then was sent to the County Administrator. This had not been done and therefore they were not aware of the \$500,000 increase in their budget.

Mr. Friesen would like the agreement reviewed so everyone understands the process to keep this from happening in the future. He would like to review and the BOCC approve their budget.

Chief Hooper said he would be willing to facilitate the process so their budget can be approved by the City Council and the BOCC.

Mr. Hirst would like everyone to look at a date in 4 months so they could meet again. Both governing bodies indicated a desire to hold the next joint meeting in 4 months, regardless if they had a specific topic to discuss.

Mr. Garza thanked Sheriff Campbell and Chief Hooper for working on things.

At 12:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned until Tuesday August 10, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
dp

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Date

