

CITY OF IOLA  
06-03-2013

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on June 3, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., at the Creitz Recital Hall in the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a city / county joint governing body discussion.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Wicoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Wicoff, Council Members Becker, Myrick, Wells, Zornes and Shaughnessy were present. Also present was Administrator Slauch, and City Clerk Hutton. County Commissioners Works and Williams were present as well as members of the press and visitors in the audience. Absent were Council Members French, Ford, and Franklin.

Council Member Becker stated that he is in favor of having one Type IIA ambulance stationed in Iola for non-emergent type transfers.

**Dr. Fred Heismeyer Moderator:**

Mr. Heismeyer asked the group to take a straw vote on which of the four options presented to the governing body members they would be in favor of.

Option three received six votes (one from a county commissioner and five from city council members) and Option four received two votes (one each from a county commissioner and a city council member).

The conclusion seems to be that options one and two could be ruled out.

Commissioner Works stated that option four works well for all involved and would be the cleanest and easiest transition. Option three would be an issue with the contract renewal for future governing bodies.

Council Member Myrick stated that he had concerns with what would happen to the status of the Iola Fire Department if option four was chosen.

Council Member Becker asked why paramedics would stay with the Iola Fire Department if option four was chosen. Have some concerns about the benefits of Iola employees that transfer to county employees and vice versa.

Commissioner Williams stated that option three is the best option, however the details would need to be worked out and would be the most difficult option to deal with in the public's eye.

Council Member Wells stated that Iola EMS employees already respond outside of the city. What we are looking for is what is best for county wide residents, having well trained employees and using them the most efficient way possible.

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Mayor Wicoff stated that he finds it offensive when Commissioner Works attacks the employees of the Iola Fire Department. No one has time to sit here and bicker when both departments have excellent employees and provide great service. He has concerns with county employees living outside of the county not knowing the people and the area very well. What can we do to make a solid agreement that would encourage these employees to want to stay longer and get them to live within the county?

Commissioner Williams stated that both departments had excellent crews. He asked the city council if they had the \$1,000,000 that is being estimated as run revenue and would they run the entire service.

Mayor Wicoff stated that a financial agreement would be a good service to the county as a whole and is the best option.

Iola Fire Chief Leapheart stated that having a long term contract would encourage quality personnel to work for the department.

Moderator Fred Heismeyer stated that both groups will work on producing a list of priorities to make option three work for them and present it to the other group.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:08 p.m.** As it was a unanimous decision the meeting was declared adjourned.

Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

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Mayor, Joel Wicoff

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City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton