

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL/NOBLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/SCHOOL
DISTRICT 518 BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING-
WORK SESSION, MARCH 22, 2018**

Mayor Mike Kuhle called the called the work session to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Biotechnology Advancement Center Conference Room with the following members present:

City Council - Alan Oberloh, Chad Cummings, Amy Ernst, Mike Harmon.

County Commissioners - Matt Widboom, Justin Ahlers.

District 518 Board of Directors - Scott Rosenberg, Linden Olson, Mike Harberts, Brad Shaffer, Joel Lorenz.

Staff present - City - Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Todd Wietzema, Director of Public Works; Mindy Eggers, Assistant City Clerk.

Nobles County - Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator; Clint Wolthuizen, Nobles County Library Director

District 518 - John Landgard, Superintendent District 518

Others present: Julie Buntjer, Daily Globe. Robbie Kremer; Tom Prins; Don Brink; Kathy Craun, Library Board Member; Mary Larson, Library Board Member; Marlene Greve, Library Board Member.

DISCUSSION

Funding the WELL Project - Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator explained that there has been discussion on a new library for over ten years, currently there are state bonding funds available and \$15million has been requested for the collaboration project between the three entities. With the total project estimated at a little over \$30 million, which includes site preparation, furniture, fixtures, and equipment, there would need to be monetary commitments from each entity to move forward with the project. Mr. Johnson noted if each agency would commit to \$2 million cash up front it would leave a little over \$10 million left to fund, which would be the County's responsibility since the School District cannot bond. Once the facility is completed, a formula would be developed to fund both debt and operating costs based on the percentage of building usage of the County and School District as the Chamber of Commerce is not interested in the location for a welcome center.

Discussion was held on whether the City's blue building would be used as part of the project and if it was, would the vacant available space be enough for the proposed approximate 70,000 square foot building an parking. The library needs approximately 23,500 square feet for their facility and the School District needs approximately 45,000 square feet that would house the adult basic education, enrichment programs, ECFE and related administration.

Steve Robinson, City Administrator explained the City is considering turning the blue building into a field house that may add indoor soccer along with other amenities, if the state approves the continuation of the special city sales tax. If the city does not get the approval of the sales tax, the building could possibly be worked into the collaborative project.

Clint Wolthuizen, Nobles County Library Director stated that before the proposed project was brought forward, the initial space request was 32,000 square feet, after making reductions in space needs they are now down to 23,00 square feet. Mr. Wolthuizen noted that there were no further reductions possible, and wants to do what's right for the community the first time.

Council Member Alan Oberloh stated he thinks that Council would agree to commit \$2 million to the library project at Monday night's Council meeting, if approved he said lobbying at the legislature would have to start right away.

School board members in attendance also seemed to be in favor of the collaboration but the funds contribution would have to be discussed.

County Commissioners also have to vote and figure out where the initial funding would come from and then proceed on funding options for the remainder needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m. by Mayor Mike Kuhle.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
Assistant City Clerk