



Kingman County Commission

Fred Foley, County Commissioner District #1
Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2
John Steffen, County Commissioner District #3

Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce, Kingman KS 67068
Office of the County Clerk: Phone: 620-532-2521 / Fax: 620-532-5082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 17, 2014

For more information, contact Nancy D. Borst, 620-532-2037 / nborst@kingmancoks.com

Kingman County to take fresh look at new law enforcement center

Kingman County commissioners voted unanimously Monday to take a fresh look at a new law enforcement center for the county.

Commissioners voted not to build a design developed over the past year by BG Architects, Manhattan. The latest cost estimates for that building, which included offices for the Kingman County Sheriff, Kingman Police, 911 dispatch, emergency management and a 32-bed jail, were \$10.5 million. Instead, commissioners voted that “a new design be prepared for a new facility.”

Commissioners also decided to set the cost of a new LEC not to exceed what could be funded with revenues from a 1 percent countywide retailers’ sales tax. County voters will go to the polls April 8 to consider enacting the 1 percent tax for 20 years.

“I’m ready to propose that – to get the 1 cent tax and follow that as our budget,” said Commissioner John Steffen in making the motion.

County voters turned down a measure last October that would have enacted a one-quarter percent sales tax and extended an existing three-quarter percent tax to fund a new LEC. Commissioners acknowledged that the estimated project cost – at that time it was \$11.8 million – was what voters didn’t like.

After that sales tax measure failed, commissioners worked on cost reductions to the BG design, shaving off \$1.3 million. Steffen said Monday that voters have told him the price tag still is too high.

“A lot felt they weren’t listened to,” he said. “I didn’t like that.”

Commission Chair Carol Voran said, “I want it to meet the needs. I don’t know what the design will be.”

Commissioners said they will now look at all options for a new facility. The current LEC houses the sheriff’s office, police, 911 and the jail in a building built in 1959 and located just south of the courthouse near downtown Kingman. The jail’s current capacity is 13 beds. In addition to jail capacity, other concerns with the current LEC are the lack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, lack of storage for evidence and other records, safety, and inadequate office space for staff.

If passed, revenue from the 1 percent sales tax will be shared by the county and its seven incorporated cities. The tax is expected to raise approximately \$910,000 annually, with 63 percent of revenue (\$576,849) going to the county. Cities that will benefit include Kingman (26.5 percent); Cunningham (4 percent), and Norwich (4 percent). The cities of Nashville, Penalosa, Spivey and Zenda each would receive less than 1 percent. The tax would take effect in October.

###