

**ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013
17TH DAY JANUARY ADJOURNED**

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on March 18, 2013 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. All Commissioners were present.

The Commission met with Chris Brown and Sally George of the Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force; Adair County Sheriff, Robert Hardwick; and William King – Operations Section Chief – Adair County Sheriff's Department. Also present were Police Chief, Jim Hughes, of the City of Kirksville and a representative from KTVO television.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Adair County Sheriff's Department's decision not to continue their participation in the Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force.

Mr. Brown began by stating that the Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force had been housed in Adair County since day one and has been the central location of their region. He wanted to thank the Commission and asked them if they had any questions pertaining to the Drug Task Force. They did not.

Sheriff Hardwick stated that the Adair County Sheriff's Department wanted to move in a new direction. He was forced to do more with less each year and felt the money could be better spent elsewhere. The Sheriff wanted to put together a new program with other area law enforcement to face the ever growing meth situation. He was confident that together, they could move in a positive direction. He stated he had the full cooperation of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Commissioner Adams questioned Sheriff Hardwick as to why he had budgeted \$4800 for membership to the Drug Task Force when he knew he wasn't going to renew the membership. Commissioner Adams felt that Sheriff Hardwick had not submitted a true budget if he knew that the membership expense was not going to come to pass. Sheriff Hardwick did not have a response to Commissioner Adam's concern.

Mrs. George stated that she respected the law enforcement in this area. She presented statistics to explain the case work load. Since 2005, the Drug Task Force had confiscated \$90,000 worth of drugs from this area. In conjunction with the meth coalition, they wanted to continue to combat this problem and work thru the highway patrol.

When asked, Mr. Brown stated that the Highway Patrol had also dropped their membership with the Drug Task Force. The board of the Highway Patrol wanted more of a say in the way the Drug Task Force was run. They ultimately opted to go into an advisory group situation with the Drug Task Force. He stated that Adair County is located in the middle of the 27-29 counties that they serve. Of those, 5 or 6 are still run by the Highway Patrol, but Adair County was not.

Commissioner Thompson remarked that Sheriff Hardwick had made his decision to separate from the Drug Task Force and now it was time to take a new proactive approach of adapting to new ways, new opportunities and new plans. He appreciated the input from both sides,

Commissioner Adams stated he did not agree with the way it was handled thru the budget.

Mr. Brown stated the Drug task Force would continue to provide the Sheriff's Department with assistance but would not be taking an active part in their investigations.

ATTEST:


County Clerk


Presiding Commissioner