The Cresco City Council met May 18, 2011 for a special joint work session at 4:00 pm at City Hall with Howard County. Council members Amy Bouska, Josh Moore Steve McCarville, Dennis Blake and John Loveless were present. Also present were Mayor Mark Bohle, Police Chief Mark Kissinger, and City Clerk Michelle Girolamo. Howard County Supervisors Don Burnikel, Mick Gamez and Jan McGovern were present as well as Sheriff Mike Miner, County Engineer Nick Rissman and County Auditor Julie Chapman.

The purpose of the work session was to bring the City and County together to brainstorm on ideas of improving efficiencies and cutting costs by working jointly with the City of Cresco and Howard County. This meeting also served to keep the communication open between the City and County and to discuss issues that have an impact on both entities.

Nick Rissman discussed outdated 28E Agreements between the City and County that should be updated and clarified regarding streets that are jointly owned and/or maintained. He was directed to meet with the City's Public Works Director and Street Superintendent to work out the details that are the most logical and cost effective for both and have the attorney draft an updated agreement.

Sheriff Miner and Police Chief Kissinger presented facts and figures regarding different scenarios such as the sheriff assuming the administrative duties of the chief, of contracting with the county for police coverage, and the pros and cons of all scenarios. The proposed new jail and LEC building plans were also discussed.

Paperless filing systems that could be done jointly were discussed and opportunities will be reviewed. Auditor Chapman explained the redistricting procedures and will work with the City on the maps. Auditor Chapman also explained the election process and discussed that the time and cost savings if City elections could be held on even years with the county and general elections but this would require a change in the law.

The special work session was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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Mayor Mark Bohle

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City Clerk Michelle Girolamo