

Carbon County Detention Facility Committee Meeting

December 2, 2020

Present: in Red Lodge at the Commissioners' Office: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Commissioner Elect Scott Miller, Tara Reynolds, Pete Critelli, Administrative Officer Angela Newell, and Gary Morseman; in Joliet at the Extension Office: Commissioner Scott Blain, Hal Lewis, Kathleen Armstrong Spectrum Architects, and Dakota Mitchim; Online/Phone: Jane Swanson-Webb, Steve Simonson Beartooth RC&D, Steve Theusen, Ashley Engelke, Barbara Krizek, John Davis Jr..

6:00 meeting called to order.

Swanson-Webb Approved November 25th minutes, Critelli seconded, minutes approved by consensus

Utility Connection Costs: Newell has reached out to Century Link for internet and North Western Energy for electric. Still need to contact MDU for gas. Manhole elevations have been completed by Interstate Engineering; as you head south the elevation rises enough to connect into sewer without the need for a lift station. Kathleen requested that once Interstate has the information compiled, that it be passed along to Spectrum.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for contracted beds: Musselshell is also interested, but we will need to wait for new commissioners to be sworn in before an MOU can be finalized. Bullock has been in contact with Bilyeu regarding MOUs. Bilyeu noted MOUs should include a minimum dollar amount for annual revenues so as to provide a financial guarantee for operations for investors. Bullock noted \$90/day is as low as we can go for contracted beds. Discussion regarding a "hold" rate to help elevate possible financial burden for contracted beds that are not used; it was decided that allowing the possibility to subcontract beds.

6:23 Sheriff Josh McQuillan joined the meeting in Joliet.

Discussion regarding maintenance and ongoing maintenance costs. Discussed creating a Capital Fund to put any excess bed rental revenues so a building maintenance fund can be established; once a maintenance account is established any excess revenues could be used to pay down the bond.

Discussion regarding the facility size. Goal is to have the bond pass so we can have an operating facility; don't want it to fail because folks are uncomfortable with the larger 100 bed number. Critelli supports 100 bed facility we can grow into, does not want a facility we are going to grow out of it. Swanson-Webb, Thuesen, Amber Foechterle concurred. Lewis also in full support of larger facility. John Davidson Jr. listening in to get information. Blain weighed in on facility size, believes 100 bed makes sense but will be a harder sell. Discussion regarding the bond costs to tax payers, most people were in favor of the larger facility, but are put off by the high construction figure.

Discussion regarding the need to communicate mission to the public and how much it is going to cost.

Swanson-Webb left meeting 6:50.

Armstrong noted inflation costs and the future cost of expansion especially if the facility is outgrown before it is paid off.

Morseman emphasized the need to get information to the public so that it can pass. All in agreement to push 100 and work on marketing.

Pete Critelli moved to support a 100-bed facility and move forward with public education; Gary Foechterle seconded; motion carried by unanimous consent.

Interlocal agreement update. The draft Interlocal Agreement has been sent to County Attorney. The County's contact civil attorney and engineer have also reviewed the draft and will provide comments to get back to Joliet this week or first-time next week. Mitchum is concerned that if the Town's grant for the water tank is not secured that the Town will need the County's assistance to accommodate the facility. Blain would like interlocal to be more general about proportionate costs and mutually beneficial relationship.

Simonson asked if Joliet had received preliminary TSEP scoring. Noted FDA Rural Development Loan is an option to backfill any grant shortfalls.

Next meeting items: utilities update, more detail operating costs, marketing documents and how to distribute, and a marketing budget.

7:10 Adjourned.