

Carbon County Detention Facility Meeting

December 9th, 2020, 6:00pm

In person at the Joliet Fire Department: Commissioner Scott Blain, Commissioner Elect Scott Miller, Hal Lewis, Amber Foechterle, Gary Foechterle, Josh McQuillan, Gary Levine, Kathleen Armstrong, Melvin Hoferer, Dakota Mitchem, Kyle Lorash. In person at Commissioners Office: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Gary Morseman, Pete Critelli, Barbara Krizek. Online: Steve Simonson, Jane Swanson Webb.

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from 11.18.2020 and 12.2.2020 were unanimously approved.
3. **Utility Connections Cost Update:** Commissioner Bullock stated that they were waiting to hear back from power and gas companies and the engineers are working on water and sewer costs. Angela Newell gave an update on internet stating that she should have a quote soon. Some discussion about the route of the water and sewer hookups and Commissioner Blain stated that he hopes the Town is willing to cover the overage in costs if they go with the route that benefits Joliet.
4. **Memorandum of Understanding with contracting counties:** Angela Newell has put together a MOU with rough costs and will send it out to the counties. Some discussion on starting at \$100 a night rate per inmate.

Pete Critelli brought up the topic of the sixty day deadline approaching if the committee is shooting for January 4th. The question as to why we are looking at a March election was asked. The Commissioners do not want to have the jail election at the same time as the school election in May and if we wait until August, that will throw off construction costs and timing, etc.

5. **Operating Costs/Staffing:** Much discussion of operating costs and size of the jail. Question of why 100 beds vs. 50 beds was asked and Gary Levine explained that building bigger is cheaper in the long run. Hal Lewis asked how confident the county is on having 24 employees to run the jail and if we can get that many. Sheriff McQuillan stated that Joliet is the best location and several

people agreed that there should be a lot of interest in jobs at the jail from Carbon County as well as Yellowstone County with it being located in Joliet. Commissioner Blain asked Gary Levine why it is so expensive to build in this area compared to other states. Gary Levine stated that the numbers that have come up for this area are based on the economy and industry and hopefully the projected bid is a little high. Commissioner Blain is working on a spreadsheet of other county jail costs for comparison.

6. **Marketing:**

- a. **Budget:** Hal Lewis asked how much the Detention Facility Committee will be able to spend on advertising. Several past projects were brought up such as the Red Lodge School Bond and the City of Billings Public Safety Bond. Sheriff McQuillan will get in touch with the Chief of Police in Billings and get some information from him. There is money allotted for promotional and educational purposes that will help. Some discussion on how to keep costs low.
- b. **Documents:**
- c. **Distribution methods:** Barbara Krizek suggested that a sign be put up at the proposed jail site that states that this is the proposed site for the detention center. That will help get the word out and help people understand where everyone is talking about. Hal Lewis is working on a Facebook page for the committee in order to distribute information to the public.

7. **Sheriff's Comments/Updates:** Sheriff McQuillan reiterated to the audience about the need for a 100 bed facility as opposed to a 50 bed facility. Kyle Lorash disagrees with the idea that building bigger is cheaper. Sheriff was asked how many inmates Carbon County has at this point and he stated that there are 12 or 13 inmates but the reason that it is low is due to Covid. No warrants are going to jail; only crimes against persons are being transported right now and the numbers are only going to get higher. Kyle Lorash also stated that he feels that the county should charge more for each bed and we should not be giving any deals to the other counties. Discussion about contracts with other counties and Commissioner Bullock stated that if we do not have contracts then we would have to have a second operational bond.

8. **Committee Comments:** Amber Foechterle stated that someone has mailed out postcards to people asking their opinion on the jail. Unknown who sent them out but the return address is to the Town of Joliet. No one knew who was responsible for them.
9. **Items for next agenda:** Utilities update, Marketing, Sheriff's report.

Meeting adjourned by Hal Lewis. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 12/16/2020. There will be no meeting on 12/23/2020.