

Carbon County Detention Facility Meeting

December 30th, 2020, 6:00pm

In person at the Joliet Fire Department: Commissioner Scott Blain, Hal Lewis, Amber Foechterle, Melvin Hoferer, Mike Creeden, Carolyn Byerly, Charlie Byerly, Don Blyton. Commissioners Office and on-line: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Angela Newell, Commissioner Elect Scott Miller, Gary Morseman, Barbara Krizek, Shane Wareheim, Jane Swanson Webb, Sheriff Josh McQuillan, Pete Critelli, Barb Miller, Tara Reynolds, Dakota Mitchem, Gary Foechterle, Richard Bischoff, Hal Leland.

1. **Public Comment:** Carolyn Byerly expressed concerns over the lack of advertising for the Carbon County Detention Facility meetings. She felt that more of the public should be at the jail meetings and not everyone has access to Facebook and the County website. Commissioner Blain explained that the meetings are held every Wednesday at 6pm and they are open to the public and if any of those dates changed we would advertise on Facebook, County website, Carbon County News and post notices around the County. Commissioner Blain also explained the history of the Detention Facility Committee and stated that the meetings were more of a work session than a community meeting, however, everyone is welcome to attend.
2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from 12.16.2020 were unanimously approved. Shane Wareheim stated that he was in attendance half way through the December 16th meeting. He will be added to the attendees in the minutes
3. **Utility Connections Cost Update:** Commissioner Blain advised the committee that, according to Montana Dakota Utilities, it is not possible to increase the gas line to the jail site. It is a possibility to have a standalone propane system on site and Silvertip Propane, Madison River and Northern Energy are working on quotes for this.

Angela Newell stated that we are still waiting on quotes from Northwestern Energy.

Mike Creeden suggested that the County look into a Geothermal System. Gary Levine stated that geothermal is expensive and a lot of engineering but they will look into it and get a quote.

4. **Memorandum of Understanding with contracting counties:** Commissioner Miller spoke with Musselshell County and they expressed interest possibly renting beds. They have discussed building a jail facility and their Commissioners would like to meet with the County to discuss the numbers.

Sheriff McQuillan has spoken with Yellowstone County Sheriff Mike Linder referencing providing relief to their facility. They won't pay Carbon County to take their prisoners but Carbon County can help with other inmates from other counties that are filling the Yellowstone County Jail.

Commissioner Blain passed out the spreadsheet of jail costs that he has been working on. He reached out to Sletten Construction as they are doing the jail expansion for Lewis and Clark County. They have built a lot of jail in Nevada and are interested enough in our project to not charge an analysis cost.

5. **Marketing:** Commissioner Bullock asked the group if we should consider an ad agency for marketing purposes. There would be a single point for outgoing information and the process would be more efficient than what the committee has discussed in the past. Several committee members liked the idea and Commissioner Bullock will reach out to an ad agency.

Mike Creeden asked if there was going to be a vote to buy the proposed jail site property and a vote for the Detention Center. Charlie Byerly stated that he was not able to vote on the purchase of the property and wanted to know where the money came from. Commissioner Blain informed them that the only vote will be for the bonding issue of the detention facility. He also informed them that the County did not have to get a vote on purchasing the proposed jail site. The reason the county is purchasing the property before voting on the facility is because when the County tried to build a jail in the past it was voted against due to them not knowing where it would be built. Commissioner Blain stated that the County has to have the property so the tax payers know where the facility will be going. He stated again the process that the jail committee went through to choose the Joliet site. There were 15-20 properties to look at and it took months to make sure that the Joliet site was the best all around option. Mr. Blain stated that he would rather see the facility out in the middle of nowhere; however, the amount of money needed would make taxes a lot higher than what they will be by being able to tie into the Joliet infrastructure. There was discussion about what would happen to the property if the jail facility fails and the property would be liquidated or used for Carbon County Sheriff.

Carolyn Byerly stated that she was told that a jail will only bring “trash” into the area. Mr. Blain stated that that was untrue and Sheriff McQuillan would be happy to talk with her after the meeting to show her some of the studies that have been conducted around the state.

Sheriff McQuillan explained to everyone again the need for a facility. Deputies are unable to arrest all that need to be arrested and when they do take someone to jail, they have to go as far as Bozeman and Townsend. Sheriff McQuillan said that the County has exhausted all possible places to take inmates and a detention facility has to be built.

Don Blyton asked why there was such a huge discrepancy with some of the other jails operating costs. Some discussion of size of facility, dispatch and jail combined, etc. More discussion of operating costs and Sheriff McQuillan discussed the need for other counties to pay for us to hold their inmates. What we are able to charge other counties is what will operate the Carbon County Detention Facility.

Angela Newell will start putting the minutes on the county website. Commissioner Bullock and Blain informed the audience that the website has a lot of information and frequently asked questions in reference to the detention facility.

6. **Items for next agenda:** Follow up on advertising, MOU, Sheriff's report.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 01/06/2021.