

Carbon County Detention Facility Meeting

January 6th, 2021, 6:00pm

In person at the Joliet Fire Department: Commissioner Scott Blain, Commissioner Scott Miller, Hal Lewis, Amber Foechterle, Melvin Hoferer, Sheriff Josh McQuillan, Gary Levine, Mike and Kathy Berscheid, John Francis, Grant Genger, Gordon Sirriner, Chris Pugrud. Commissioners Office and on-line: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Angela Newell, Gary Morseman, Barbara Krizek, Shane Wareheim, Jane Swanson Webb, Pete Critelli, Steven Theusen, Tara Reynolds.

1. **Public Comment:** John Francis expressed concerns over the water and sewer situation in the Town of Joliet and he feels there is still too much to do before the jail can even be considered being built. He has looked through the 2012 KLG Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the Joliet Wastewater system and feels that not enough has been repaired or replaced to allow the jail to hook up to Joliet's infrastructure. Hal Lewis suggested that Mr. Francis attend the Town of Joliet Council meetings to discuss the infrastructure issues.

Grant Genger looked at the matrix and had some questions on a shortage of \$475,000 and was wondering where that money went. Mr. Genger handed out the results of a study done by Microbial Insights for Northern Plains Resource Council. They tested up and down the creek for human vs. bovine feces. Results - Boyd: 1438/1, Two Mile Bridge: 247/1, Montaquaa: 10/1, Rockvale: 71/1, and Gibson Bridge 2683/1. Mr. Genger feels that the Joliet sewer system needs repaired before the jail is allowed into town. He is also concerned about "light pollution" from the light beacons that he thinks will be at the jail.

Chris Pugrud moved to Joliet two months ago and had questions about staffing, operating costs and renting out beds to other counties. He also feels that it will be unsafe for his children to walk around town once a jail is built in Joliet.

Mike Berscheid wanted to know if the sale of the property went through and what the purpose of the easement was off of Central Ave. Commissioner Blain stated that there is no plans for the easement at this time but they felt they needed it was because the only access points to the jail are from the highway. Mr. Berscheid also asked what the purpose was of the town and county looking at the manholes in the area. Commissioner Blain told him that it was to see if a lift station would be needed at all.

Kathy Berscheid made it clear that she does not want the jail to be built next to her property. She stated that she can't fight it but she is requesting trees be planted between her residence and the jail to block lights from the jail hitting her house. It was asked if the county used reserves to purchase the property. Commissioner Blain and Angela Newell stated that not only did it not touch the reserves but the reserves increased half a percent.

Question was asked how many beds need to be filled to "break even". Commissioner Bill Bullock answered that 75 beds need to be filled to break even.

2. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from 12.30.2020 were unanimously approved.
3. **Utility Connections Cost Update:** Commissioner Bullock stated that natural gas would not be an option for four to five years and a quote for propane was received from Silvertip. Town and Country think they can come in at a lower price. Angela Newell gave an update on power. Northwestern Energy is closer than Beartooth Electric. The power will have to cross the highway and that will be the biggest expense. Commissioner Blain gave an update on water and sewer. Kathy Bercheid stated that she is concerned about all of the issues coming up with utilities. She was informed that the engineers have said that the Town of Joliet water and sewer can handle the jail with some upgrades and repairs. She was also informed that the propane/natural gas issue is a hiccup, but natural gas will eventually be used.
4. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with contracting counties:** Commissioner Bullock stated that Stillwater County and Sweet Grass County are ready to sign MOUs. Commissioner Miller has been speaking with Musselshell County Commissioners and they are very interested. All commissioners will meet once the three new Musselshell County Commissioners get their feet on the ground. Commissioner Bullock pointed out that the jail already has 30 beds filled with Stillwater and Sweet Grass and we haven't even begun to build. He also responded to the comments of there will be people released from jail and they will hang around the area; eventual contracts with participating agencies will require if an inmate is being held for another county they pick them up and transport them back home.

Sheriff McQuillan has spoken with Yellowstone County Sheriff Mike Linder referencing providing relief to their facility. A meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday and the Sheriff will have more information at the next meeting.
5. **Operating Costs/Staffing:** Angela Newell has spoken with Roosevelt County and compared their budget to our projected budget. The numbers are very similar and she is working on a PowerPoint for public education.
6. **Marketing:** Commissioner Bullock spoke with an Ad agency about a quote for advertising and the price came in at \$30,000. In depth conversation with the committee about what needs to be done. It was suggested that the committee members write letters to the editor of the Carbon County News and use social media as much as possible. Commissioner Bullock is going to check to see how much it will cost to have an ad agency do some of the advertising to bring it down closer to the \$10,000 amount. Commissioner Blain feels that the small meetings are one of the best ways to inform the public. Hal Lewis stated that we need to have a solid budgeted number next meeting so we know how much to spend on advertising.
7. **Committee Comments:** Commissioner Blain wants to appeal to the Governor's office and take a shot at talking to the Legislature about infrastructure funding. Amber Foechterle informed the committee that the Town of Joliet did not get the \$425,000 grant from CDBG. That grant would have gone towards the water project. The Town is still in the running for the TSEP grant sitting at 16th on the list. According to Triple Tree, Joliet is on the Governor's

budget for this grant. Gary Morseman wants to get the cost of the entire project nailed down so the committee knows what to tell the public when they ask.

Angela Newell asked the committee if we should move public comment to the end of the agenda instead of the top. Everyone agreed.

8. **Sheriff's Comments/Update:** Sheriff McQuillan had to leave for an emergency so no report given.
9. **Items for the next agenda:** Follow up on advertising, MOU, Sheriff's report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 01/13/2021.

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