

Carbon County Detention Facility Meeting

January 27th, 2021, 6:00pm

In person at the Joliet Fire Department: Commissioner Scott Blain, Commissioner Scott Miller, Shane Swandal, Hal Lewis, Amber Foechterle, Gary Foechterle, Melvin Hoferer, Sheriff Josh McQuillan, Gary Levine, Kathleen Armstrong, Alex Songstad, Mike Creeden, Chris Pugrud. Commissioners Office and on-line: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Angela Newell, Gary Morseman, Barbara Krizek, Shane Wareheim, Jane Swanson Webb, Tara Reynolds, Denise Rivette, and Steve Theusen

1. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from 01.20.2021 were unanimously approved. Commissioner Bullock pointed out that there was a misspelled name in the minutes. It will be corrected tomorrow and sent to Barbara Krizek.
2. **Mission Statement and Goals:** Hal Lewis read the proposed mission statement and goals aloud. There was a question of whether or not we needed to change the term 'jail space;' several alternate suggestions were stated. Much discussion about how the mission statement should read. It was decided to table the mission statement and anyone with ideas could email Angela with them. Melvin Hoferer moved to table the mission statement and goals.
3. **Sheriff's Comments / Update:** Sheriff Josh McQuillan advised the committee that after last week's discussion about 50 beds vs. 100 beds, and a meeting with the Commissioners, he stated that at 50 bed makes more sense than a 100 bed. The Yellowstone County Sheriff/s Office and Brian Gootkin cautioned against building a detention center that relied on other counties revenue. There are counties that are willing to sign MOU's but Stillwater County is unable to promise us anything. They do not want to pay for empty beds. McQuillan stated that we need to take a hard look and decide if we want out of county inmates or just deal with Carbon County inmates at this time. He feels that if we build it smaller to start with then we have room for expansion in the future if needed. A 50 bed facility will cost the taxpayers more money but he feels that they are more likely to pass a bond for a 50 bed as opposed to a 100 bed. Sheriff McQuillan feels that this is the most fiscally responsible plan for the detention center.

Gary Moresman feels that we are not being fiscally responsible and thinks we should build a 30 bed facility closer to Red Lodge and only house Carbon County inmates. He does not like the design of the proposed detention facility and would like to look at other companies.

Jane Swanson-Webb thanked Sheriff McQuillan for telling the committee how he feels.

Commissioner Blain introduced Shane Swandal with Hulteng CCM, Inc. stating that his company was recommended to us by Lewis and Clark County. Mr. Swandal met with the Sheriff and Commissioners about the proposed detention facility and they feel his

construction management firm would be a great asset. Mr. Swandal explained what his company would do for the project and gave the committee some pointers of where we need to go from here. Should his firm be selected, he will work directly with the bond council and help with the bond language as we will need to be careful on how we put it so as not to constrain the final design; we will have to deliver exactly what we say. Commissioner Bullock asked when would be the appropriate time to engage Owners Representative services; Mr. Swandal said it could be very soon.

4. **Strategic Planning Timeline:** Angela Newell introduced a rough draft of a CCDF Planning Timeline spreadsheet that she created. Discussion about the timeline and how accurate it may or may not be. Jane Swanson – Webb asked when we will start having public meetings again and Commissioner Blain thinks it is the best way to educate the public. Mike Creeden suggested that some of the information on flyers, etc should show what the Committee has accomplished.

Commissioner Blain brought up the issue of the architects being 6 to 7 million dollars off on the total cost of the facility and as a result it is being questioned if a 103 bed facility is the way to go or if there should be a lower number of beds. He feels that if we build a 50 bed facility that it will pass with no issues. Much discussion about bed count and architects and money and Commissioner Blain stated that whatever we do we have to do it right the first time or the measure will not pass. Commissioner Bullock asked Sheriff McQuillan where he stands and he advised that he wants a place to put prisoners and that it is true to the taxpayers. Hal Lewis brought up the possibility of having two bonds instead of one and it being a problem to discuss with the public. From the beginning it was stated that there would be only one bond and some decisions need to be made in order to know what we are talking about when the community starts asking questions.

5. **Memorandums of Understanding with contracting counties:** Commissioner Miller stated that they will be meeting with Musselshell County on February 5th to see if they are willing to commit to anything. Hal Lewis asked if we should still meet with them as we are undecided on whether or not we will have out of county inmates. Commissioner Miller feels that the meeting should still take place.
6. **Operating Costs / Staffing / Levy:** Commissioner Blain handed out a spreadsheet created by Angela with proposed operating costs. Angela Newell feels that the county needs to hire a financial professional to deal with the costs.
7. **Public Education:** Hal Lewis stated that we should probably shift gears with getting information out to the public until we know how big the facility will be.

Christopher Pugrud questioned the spreadsheet and wanted to know why we were discussion shifting to a 50 bed from 100 bed facility. Sheriff McQuillan stated that it is not guaranteed that we will get revenue from other counties. Much discussion of what the detention facility will need no matter what size it is.

Mike Creeden asked how many man hours the Sheriff's Office would be saving if the jail was built. Sheriff McQuillan stated that he does have those numbers.

Commissioner Blain gave an example of how the taxes might be for the taxpayers.

Some discussion about holding off with the letters to the editor was had. Denise Rivette offered to draft letter to the CC News once we have more information in reference to size change and what the ultimate cost to taxpayers would be.

The committee needs to take some time and once we get information on both 50 and 100 beds we can make the decision.

8. **Committee Comments:** Steve Theusen, prior to last week, thought that we had commitments from other counties. He feels that the committee needs to be transparent and at the end of the day we need to be certain instead of speculative. He feels that we need to back up and reevaluate what we are doing. Sheriff McQuillan reiterated that we need to not send anymore letters until a decision is made.
9. **Items for the next agenda:** Taking 2 weeks to make a decision. Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Blain stated that they are 100% behind Sheriff McQuillan and they are for a 50 bed facility. Both had been concerned about a 100 bed facility failing. Commissioner Bullock stated that he is also for a 50 bed facility.

10. **Public Comment:**

Mike Creeden was glad that we took his suggestions from the last meeting into consideration. He feels that we are headed in the right direction.

Chris Pugrud feels that a 50 bed facility will be less of an impact on the water and sewer and he suggested getting a budget to the public when ready.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 02/17/2021.