

Carbon County Detention Facility Meeting

January 20th, 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, Kathleen Armstrong, Alex Songstad, Charlie Buechler, Chris Pugrud. Commissioners Office and on-line: Commissioner Bill Bullock, Angela Newell, Gary Morseman, Barbara Krizek, Shane Wareheim, Jane Swanson Webb, Pete Critelli, Mike Creeden, Tara Reynolds, Denise Rivette.

1. **Approve Minutes:** Minutes from 01.06.2021 were unanimously approved. The meeting scheduled for 01.13.2021 was cancelled.
2. **Utility Connections Cost Update:** Angela Newell was informed by Northwestern Energy that they can reuse the existing highway crossing for phase 1 and phase 2 power. High end cost will be around \$20,000. Commissioner Bill Bullock stated that the high end range for propane will be \$300,000. Commissioner Scott Blain said the numbers for water and sewer are pretty solid. Amber Foechterle advised that there will be a public hearing on February 16th at 6:30 referencing the extension of services application from Carbon County to the Town of Joliet. Mayor Mitchem will be testifying at the legislative session for the Town's TSEP grant application.
3. **Memorandum of Understanding with contracting counties:** Commissioner Bullock gave an update of county MOU's. Still negotiating with Stillwater County but Sweetgrass County is on board. Commissioner Scott Miller spoke with Musselshell County and a meeting is being planned to discuss up front commitments. Commissioner Blain spoke with the US Marshals Office and they stated that there are three things they generally look at to be on their list. Proximity to federal court, meet federal standards and they want a full service facility. The Chief Deputy Marshal is interested and there is a meeting at the Commissioner's Office on January 26th, 2021. They are confident that a verbal agreement can be made to house their prisoners.

Sheriff McQuillan updated the committee on the meeting with the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office. Head of the Department of Corrections, Brian Gootkin was also present. They looked over the proposed budget and had ideas and some questions. They feel that the projected operating budget numbers are low and Angela is working with their finance people. Mr. Gootkin encouraged Sheriff McQuillan to keep doing what we are doing.

Tara Reynolds questioned why we were discussing the bed count since she thought it was already decided on 100 beds. Commissioner Blain stated that a lot has changed in the last ten days and that is why it is being brought up again.

4. **Operating Costs/Staffing:** Angela Newell stated that it was hard to compare apples to apples due to the number of beds, contract employees and overall admin impact to the county. There will possible be a need for Carbon County to have a finance office for HR, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, etc. Angela presented a spreadsheet of costs and discussed possible mill numbers. Much discussion with the committee about mill levy, dollar levy, and number of beds proposed. Sheriff McQuillan asked Shane Wareheim about Highway Patrol's daily inmate rate and they are paying whatever the state rate is.

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. **Public Education:** Commissioner Bullock gave an update on advertising budget. Barbara Krizek did some research and the amount will be close to \$11,000 to \$12,000 through Spectrum. This provides for mailings, some radio time on the Mountain and yard signs.

Hal Lewis said that he has a Facebook page for the committee and it will be unveiled at the next meeting.

Sheriff McQuillan feels that there is a huge benefit to in person meetings and we need to have meetings around the county.

6. **Committee Comments:** Commissioner Bullock stated that it is futile to entertain an advertising budget at this time.

Denise Rivette wants numbers backed up by something other than the previous architect.

Shane Wareheim thinks that there will be no issue with filling a 103 bed facility.

Gary Morseman suggested that we think about just having a 20 to 30 bed facility and worry about our own inmates.

Commissioner Miller would like to see what the goals are on the new facebook page when it is up and running. He also questioned if we need to push this back. He feels that it is more of a money issue then it is a size issue.

Pete Critelli feels that we this project hinges on our credibility and we need correct information before we can get it out to the public.

Denise Rivette feels that it is clear that we are not ready to move forward and need a week or two to work it out.

Commissioner Blain feels that we have solid numbers and that the facility costs are as close as we are going to get them.

Commissioner Bullock stated that this needs to be the Sheriff's initiative to lead on this and not the Commissioners initiative. Sheriff McQuillan countered with that it is the Commissioners job to build it and his job to run it. He also feels that if we can get the numbers to \$50 per \$100,000 they he will back it more.

Jane Swanson Webb feels that the public likes to hear from the Sheriff and that law enforcement is who will get this passed.

Hal Lewis stated that if the Sheriff believes that the 103 bed facility will work then the committee and the commissioners will follow.

7. **Sheriff's Comments/Update:** None
8. **Public Comment:** Mike Creeden has been listening for about thirty minutes and feels that the meeting has fallen apart. He feels that the committee is not organized and that we need a clear mission statement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 01/27/2021.