



Jackson County Jail Advisory Committee
Jackson County Courthouse
201 West Platt Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 19, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson County Courthouse

Members Present: Board of Supervisors – Larry McDevitt; District Court – Judge Nancy Tabor; Sheriff – Russ Long (designee); Sheriff Representative – Steve Schroeder; Jail Administrator – Adam Pape; Jail Representative – Adam Hoffman; County Attorney – Sara Davenport; Police Department Representative – Brad Koranda; EMC – Lyn Medinger; Adult Probation Officer – Renee Behr; Regional Citizen Representatives – Mike Delaney, Tiffany Mangler, Dick Kunau; Farm Bureau Representative – Scott Scheckel (designee)

Visitors: Chris Riordan, Don Carson, Lenke Carson, Jill Marshall, Mike Franzen, Brent Kilburg, Jack Willey, Alisa Smith, George Houston; John Hansen, MCC; Rick Weidner, Architect; Media: Kelly Gerlach, Maquoketa Sentinel Press; Karen Rubel, Local Access; Alicia Yager, Telegraph Herald

The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Hoffman, second by Pape to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

At the last meeting the committee narrowed down the site options to 2:

1. Penrose with acquisition of Sneddon and Wisted/Bentley properties
2. Greenfield site by Walmart

John Hansen reviewed the pros and cons for each site. Rick Weidner looked into having some of the admin functions in the existing Penrose building, like EOC. There are still concerns with the buildings current construction not being adequate for any Sheriff's Office functions. Hansen pointed out that construction costs go up when building in a tight area as you need more expensive equipment. Elevation of the west side of the jail will be 20 feet above the property line.

Don and Lenke Carson were present and were asked their feelings on having the jail west of the Penrose building. The jail would end up partially behind their house and Don's parents live in the house just west of the Wisted/Bentley property. Carsons were not in favor of having the jail located there, especially with the 20 foot wall right next to the property. Don asked if the building could be flipped so the high wall would be on the east side. Widener explained that the admin side will see more traffic, that is why he positioned the building the way he did. Mangler

confirmed that the jail will have the effect of decreasing the property values of the surrounding properties.

McDevitt brought up that mental health could still be coming back and child's mental health is also coming to the county level.

McDevitt made a motion to recommend the Greenfield site by Walmart to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Mangler.

More discussion ensued. Delaney stated that he thinks the planned building is too big and we shouldn't need the extra Wisted/Bentley property. Hansen responded that even if they decrease the number of beds the building size itself will not shrink enough to prevent having to purchase the Wisted/Bentley property. Hansen stated that he has started going through booking records and will have hard numbers soon. From what he has seen already within 20 years the County will need a minimum of 38 beds and with proper classification would require a 50 bed facility. Delaney is concerned that we will not be able to sell this to the public if it is not next to the Penrose. Hansen stated that he will provide the information that we need to take to the public. Scheckel believes that \$6.4 million is not a big enough difference from \$6.9 million and in order to get the voters on board the project needs to be \$5.9 million or less. Hansen explained that he will be able to get a better estimate once we settle on a site but he also does not want to build too small, we can't just add a pod on to the building.

Vote was taken and approved by 12 with one opposed.

New Business:

- a. Discussion on which date to recommend for the bond vote. The next available date is August 6 and then November 5. Hansen believes 4 months is realistic. He will gather info that can be provided to the public including: existing facility evaluation, inmate census/population, operation costs; space requirements. We would be able to start marketing by June. Koranda stated that we need to get more people involved/get the info out to the public. Mangler pointed out that we know where the "no" votes came from and should target the area to market. Hansen also stated that an August vote means January bidding which will result in better bids.

A motion was made by Long and seconded by Pape to recommend having the bond vote on August 6, 2019. The motion was approved by 12 with one opposed.

- b. Hansen showed photos of other jails he's been involved with showing both the outside as well as the cells and control room.
- c. Schroeder talked with Norm Kennedy, the realtor for the owner of the Walmart property, about extending the option to buy. An agreement was signed by both the owner and county extending the option to the end of August without any additional terms or money.
- d. Hansen plans to have existing facility and inmate census by the next meeting. It was decided to push the next meeting back one week to April 17, 2019 at 6pm to give him enough time. Hansen also stated that now that a location has been selected he will be able to firm up the estimate of probably cost.

- e. Schroeder mentioned that 2019's jail inspection occurred last Friday. Delbert Longley, jail inspector, looked at the proposed floor plans and said he is pleased with the layout.

Public Comments

Jill Marshall doesn't think the committee is really wanting public input since we are no longer allowing the public to speak until the end of the meeting after all the votes have been taken. She stated that she thinks the location, size, and cost of a new jail are all important factors. She doesn't believe putting the jail by Walmart is a good idea and has heard from others that they won't vote for the jail if it is.

George Houston stated that we need to show photos and get the info out in other ways than just the internet and newspaper. He remembers when they were "selling" the bond for the current jail they told the public that if we needed more space we can go up.

Mike Franzen brought up that when Midland School had their bond vote the main thing people wanted to know was how it would affect their individual taxes.

Motion by Koranda, second by Medinger to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting April 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Davenport, Secretary