



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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 15, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson County Courthouse

Members Present: Board of Supervisors – Larry McDevitt; District Court – Judge Nancy Tabor; Sheriff – Russ Kettmann; Sheriff Representative – Steve Schroeder; Jail Administrator – Adam Pape; Jail Representative – Adam Hoffman; County Attorney – Sara Davenport; EMC – Lyn Medinger; Regional Citizen Representatives – Jon Thoms, Tiffany Mangler, Dick Kunau;

Visitors: Tom Messerli, Mike Steines, Jack Willey; John Hansen, MCC: Rick Weidner, Architect; Media: Sara Millhouse, Maquoketa Sentinel Press; Mary Hayward, Local Access; Sheri Melvold, KMAQ & Telegraph Herald

The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Pape, second by Hoffman to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

No visitor or citizen comments.

Old Business:

Hanson provided the committee and visitors with two handouts which he then discussed. The first was similar to last month's handout with a few changes and some additional information on the different classification areas. The second was a comparison of three different options showing the estimated operational costs and the 20 year impact of each. These comparisons did not include increases in costs so as to keep things simple and comparable.

- No jail or holding facility – Annual cost of \$987,919; 20 year cost of \$19,758,380
- No jail but county holding facility – Annual cost of \$1,019,119; 20 year cost of \$20,432,380; the costs are higher b/c of the staffing needed to man the holding cells
- New Law Enforcement Center w/Admin, Jail & support areas – Annual cost of \$561,809; 20 year cost of \$13,176,200.

Hanson mentioned that we want to build a jail that will last 50-60 years. He had a newspaper article on Des Moines County's jail which was built in the mid-to late 90s to hold 60 inmates and their average daily population is now at 90. He also mentioned that Henry County's bids came in under budget so they were able to do the expansion (44 bed expandable to 96).

Hansen is still recommending 11 classifications with 50 beds expandable to 74. He has made a number of reductions/revisions and had Widener redraw the plans many times. But in order to

“Working to improve the justice system in Jackson County, Iowa”

keep the classifications and beds that he feels are necessary most of the changes came from the Admin side which is cheaper to build. The estimated cost will be \$6.35 million, which includes land acquisition.

Hansen pointed out that with the raising tariffs and other costs the \$6.95 million that we voted on last August would be \$7.3 million for proper comparison. However, even comparing the \$6.95 million to the \$6.35 million we would be getting more for less money (28 expandable to 36 compared with 50 expandable to 74). Allamakee County built a 44 bed facility 1 ½ - 2 yrs ago at a cost of \$5.245 million which with inflation would be about \$5.9 million now. Davis County build a 41 bed facility for \$5.5 million with inflation would be \$6 million today.

Hansen talked with Jeff Heil about taxpayer costs. The difference to the taxpayer between \$6.35 and \$5.99 is 2 cents per \$1000 in value. Annual cost for a \$100,000 house would be a difference of \$2.02.

Thoms asked how much it would cost to do the expandable 24 beds now. Hansen estimated about \$250,000 but he will put together numbers and provide a better estimate at the next meeting. He pointed out that it would be cheaper to do the expansion now if we are able as once the jail becomes a secured facility the costs goes up and things are more complicated, i.e. you have to count your tools when you go in and count them when you leave every day to make sure none are left behind and have to go through the secure door system every time you need to go out to get something. McDevitt mentioned that the County might be able to buy the land (\$260,000) with the general fund which would keep the bond at \$6.35 million and allow for the expansion.

Mike Steines asked if a metal building, like Davis County has and used as the construction manager's office during construction, was included in the price. Hansen stated that it was not. The 40 foot by 60 foot metal building with heating and cooling that they just built in Henry County cost about \$85,000. So the money could come out of the contingency estimate. Henry County will be using theirs for larger evidence that needs stored.

Public Awareness Campaign: Hansen will have some literature by the next meeting. Also be able to finalize the tax impact.

New Business:

Scott County jail tour:

- 8 people went and it took about 2 hours
- only 10 yrs old and already shipping inmates out; 340 bed facility currently housing 60 out of county.
- recommended use of mesh railings rather than bars as inmates will climb on the bars and jump down.

- recommends using as little paint as possible, use stainless steel or steel as much as possible; Hansen responded that he recommends using water-based rather than oil-based paints and that most of the equipment is stainless steel.
- Steines found it very informative. He mentioned that they do 1 -2 tours every week if anyone else would like to see it get with Steve and he can set it up.
- Kunau was impressed by Scott County's emphasis on preventing recidivism with various programing like GED classes, Yoga, AA, chaplain services.
- Scott County makes about \$50,000 every 2 weeks on their commissary which includes use of phone and programing. (keep in mind they have over 300 inmates)

Thoms suggested that we have a meeting shortly after the May 29th meeting so that we can plan the Public Awareness Campaign, specifically focusing on how to approach groups who were vocally opposed last time around. Schroeder will send out the info from the last election in the next few days. Mangler stated that we really need to explain the importance of voting and what happens if it does not pass this time. Hansen said that we need to address that the cost is not going to go down again – people might think “we voted no last time and look the cost went down, if we vote no again it'll go down more”.

Hansen will assist with preparing/printing flyers. The County can pay for materials as long as they are simply informational/factual and not persuasive – “vote yes”. He mentioned that Delaware County just passed their bond last week and they had printed about 6,200 flyers and went door to door.

Motion by Thoms, second by Hoffman to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Next Meeting May 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Davenport, Secretary