



Kewaunee County
PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 12, 2020 4:30 p.m.
County Administration Building, 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
Human Services Training Room

Call to Order: Chair Weidner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present – Robert Weidner, Gary Paape, John Mastalir, Charles Wagner, Tom Romdenne, Matt Joski, David Cornelius, Jason Veaser, Chris Van Erem, Frank Mazdarevic, Tracy Nollenberg, John Pabich, Anne Kulhanek, Sandy Christman, Jeff Wisnicky, Scott Feldt, Jeff Dorner, John Cain.

Approval of February 15, 2020 Agenda: Wagner moved and Paape seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of January 15, 2020 Minutes: Wagner moved and Paape seconded to approve the February 15, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion of Interim Presentation: Cain reviewed the most recent draft of the interim report with the group page by page. Slide 9 related to the issue of neighboring counties taking Kewaunee County inmates. Information is being collected whether Door and other counties would accept our inmates on a multi-year contract. Joski indicated that this is not a long-term option as counties can eventually decide they will no longer house our inmates. Wagner referred to the recent conference hosted by the Wisconsin Counties Association where the thought of regional jail facilities was brought up. Discussion followed as to what would be the advantages and disadvantages of such an idea.

Van Erem gave a summary to how various operational costs were calculated and the methodology behind those estimates and calculations if the County were to decide to no longer house its inmates.

Slide 11 highlighted various costs related to no longer housing prisoners within the county. It was indicated that any new arrest, whether by the county or a local municipality would require the arresting officer to transport that person to the county where our inmates are housed. This could place a significant burden on the municipality. While this is an important consideration, it does not affect projection costs for the county directly. It does increase costs for the municipality.

Slide 22 provided analysis regarding the construction of a jail on the current courthouse site. The analysis indicates that in addition to the construction costs, Kewaunee County would need to house inmates in other counties for approximately 18 months which would increase the total cost. The one-time cost would be approximately \$2 million.

There was general discussion regarding the various options and the projected building costs. Cain indicated that the construction costs for building on the courthouse site (Option 4/5) are greater than building on a new site (Option 7), but the site costs for Option 7 are greater than Options 4/5 because utilities and site preparation would be greater due to extending them to a new site.



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Slide 39 provided a quick comparison of capital project costs between Options 4, 5 and 7. Concern was expressed by various members that the current comparison is incomplete and does not provide a good "apples to apples" comparison. Option 7 includes a fleet garage, a functional sally port, and Emergency Management space that is not in Options 4/5. If additional parking is to be considered for Options 4/5, those costs have not been added. It was agreed that more work was needed to provide a more accurate comparison.

Van Erem guided the group through the estimation of staffing levels and costs for the various options being considered. Options 4/5 would likely require an additional 17 staff as the building in both options would be multi-level which results in higher staffing needs. Option 7 would be projected at 15 additional staff if the County were to keep the jail and 911 functions separate. Van Erem projected 10 additional staff if the County continues to use the dual role position of jailer-dispatcher currently being employed. General discussion followed regarding staffing, assignment of duties within the jail and 911 Center and the recruiting of employees. The idea of merging (jail and/or 911) services was mentioned as a consideration.

Van Erem reviewed each projected post that would be needed in a new facility. They included: a control officer, a pod officer, dispatcher and booking officer. How those posts would be staffed and where they would be located is still uncertain until the County has determined how to address facility functions and staff duties.

General discussion followed regarding current jail and 911 operational costs. Concerns were raised as to staff costs and how the County can fund those staffing costs. Staffing costs are not an item that debt can be issued for. These costs would have to be absorbed within the county budget. To do so, revenues must be raised, expenses must be decreased, or a combination of the two. Additional questions were raised regarding other costs such as utilities, insurance, programming, etc.

Cain asked the group if they still want to revisit Option 1. Weidner asked Feldt what are the next steps. Feldt responded that the group has made a recommendation of building a new law enforcement center (Option 7) at a new site. It is the decision of the County Board whether to accept the recommendation and move forward, or request other alternatives from the group to consider.

A question was asked as to what other counties have spent for their facilities and are they comparable. Joski indicated that Calumet and Iowa counties have recently finished or have begun construction and he provided estimated project costs.

Wagner expressed his concern that he does not want the county to make budgetary cuts that will reduce the cost of the project in the short-term but create long-term problems in operating the facility. Weidner asked if the \$35 million estimate for Option 7 is a safe number. Cain responded yes. Additional questions regarding sewer and water extensions from the street to the new site was discussed.



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Cain inquired as to the schedule and how will the process proceed. Discussion followed as to when information would be presented to the new county board and when a decision would be made whether to move forward to phase 3 of the project. The new Board will be inducted on April 28. It was suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled for the Board solely on this topic. Discussion followed as to how best provide information to the Board so that they can be adequately informed as the process continues.

Other Discussion Items: None.

Next Meeting: March 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Wagner moved and Mastalir seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.