

## **Public Safety/Jail Meeting – January 15, 2020**

Chairman Robert Weidner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Appearances:** John Cain, Jeff Wisnicky, Jeff Dorner, Sandi Christman, Chuck Wagner, Pat Benes, Sheriff Joski, Jason Veaser, Chris VanErem, Robert Weidner, Gary Paape, John Pabich, John Mastalir. A representative from the Samuel's Group (Construction management firm) was in attendance at the meeting.

### **Meeting:**

John Cain from Venture architects began with interim presentation with respect to Phase II of the Jail Study. John provided the committee with a handout. The handout described the remaining options and contained cost estimates prepared by the Concord Group. The Concord Group is currently working on the Brown County jail project.

John described the four options remaining:

**Option 1: Abandon Jail/Rent Beds.** The committee reviewed and discussed the findings with respect to abandoning the jail and renting beds.

The committee discussed a number of practical limitations to abandoning the jail including:

1. No one jail can accommodate all of our prisoners, would have to bring our inmates to several sites.
2. There is not a lot of beds available.
3. Fresh arrests would require significant travel. This will affect not only KCSD but the local police departments.
4. Officers may be tied up for hours waiting for bed to become available.
5. We can only accommodate a few inmates at the courthouse at a time, would have to somehow space out hearings involving inmates, perhaps more travel and logistics involved.
6. Inmates eligible for HUBER would not be able to work their job if they are housed at some far off jail. Best practice is to keep inmates close to home where community and family resources are available to individual.
7. At mercy of other jails, they could tell us to get out.
8. If we contract beds the average price of \$55.00 per day will likely increase significantly.

The committee reviewed Options 4 – New Jail Onsite and Option 5 – New Jail and Sheriff's Offices Onsite. These two options were reviewed by the committee and were not favorably viewed because it is not cost effective in the short term or the long term to construct a new jail on the Courthouse site. The jail would be wedged in on the Courthouse block and would have to be multiple stories tall. There would be no room for any further expansion. This option would require the county to relocate the inmates for approximately 18 months while construction was ongoing (same problems noted above with abandoning jail). There would be no parking and visitors to the courthouse and jail would likely have to walk blocks when the courthouse is busy. These options would have numerous significant operations implications.

**Option 7: New Jail and Sheriff's Office offsite.** This proposal is favored by the committee. It is expensive. The higher figure is attributable to the site preparation, parking lots, access roads and utility installations. This option also moves the sheriff's office and sheriff's garage. If this option would be pursued the plan

would be further refined. This option provides the ability to expand, is located next to Administration buildings.

The committee discussed the options above and a motion was made by Paape, second by Benes, to focus on Option 7. Motion carried.

The committee asked Lt. VanErem to provide a narrative with respect to staffing the various options.

The committee asked the Sheriff to provide a narrative as to the operating implications of Options 1, 4 and 5.

Discussion was had regarding outreach to the community on this project.

For next meeting discuss space needs for Option 7:

1. Garage space
2. Basement Potential
3. Emergency Management
4. Shared spaces
5. Further refinement

Next meeting to discuss capital costs, staffing costs and social ramifications of the various options.

Motion by Wagner and second by Mastalir to adjourn. Motion carried at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Wisnicky