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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Ad Hoc Jail Solution Committee Minutes
April 14, 2015**

The DeKalb County Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 @ 7:00p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. Members present were Marjorie Askins, Kevin Bunge, Dan Cribben, John Frieders, Frank O'Barski, Riley Oncken, Stephen Reid, Lt. Joyce Klein, and Anita Turner. Mr. Stoddard and Sheriff Scott were absent. Others present were Mr. Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Mr. Mark Pietrowski, and Mr. Pete Stefan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. O'Barski, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from March 17, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Oncken asked to add Public Comment to the agenda under #8b. It was moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Ms. Askins, and it was carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

POPULATION NUMBERS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS JAILS

Pre-trial numbers were running around 69 defendants said Chairman Jones. He then passed out a report from Ms. Gilmour that she prepared for the committee's meeting tonight.

Mr. Oncken said that he felt that the report reflected the result that we expected them to have under the pre-trial program.

Chairman Jones asked Lt. Klein if Illinois is higher than the national average with pre-sentencing?

Lt. Klein said that she did not know.

Ms. Askins said that she would like to see, of the individuals that have gone through pre-trial, how many of them have been found not to be in compliance with their pre-trial agreement.

Mr. Frieders asked about the afternoon bond call - is there anything that can be done to accommodate that?

Lt. Klein said a lot of things come into play with this issue and one of them is space – we don't have a lot of space for people to talk to other people. So typically, there are a quite a few people that get released for pre-trial that opens up space. This can give them interview space.

She continued by stating, that another thing is that for them, it is not the best solution for a couple of reasons. The first one is that some of the recommendations that pre-trial will make is that a defendant needs to report to Sober link. Sober link closes their offices at 4 p.m. and unless the Sheriff's Department can make contact prior to that time - the person is not getting out that day anyway.

The other issue, she said, is that a lot of people get stuck out here and they have issues. The Sheriff's Department has always made a commitment to Sycamore that we were not going to just release someone who has nowhere to go if they don't live here. More trains run in Elburn during the day than night time, therefore it is better for us to get people on the trains during the day time who do not live here, she said.

Mr. Frieders said that maybe this is something to just keep in the back of our mind then.

Mr. Oncken said that maybe a solution would be to hold two bond calls like 8:30a.m. and at 1:30p.m.

Chairman Jones said that his one concern is that the cases that they work on - with a person who generally is not a danger to the general public –could possibly be to one person.

Lt. Klein said that there are risk assessments done.

Chairman Jones said that if any more questions come up on this subject that he could invite Ms. Gilmour to the next committee meeting

PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE EXPANSION OF THE JAIL – MS. CHRISTINE JOHNSON

Ms. Christine Johnson, Deputy County Administrator, approached the committee about frequently asked questions regarding the Jail and what the public may ask our county board members as we proceed with this project. She explained her handout to the committee and informed them on what to say to the public. She said that some of the topics could be expanded on later. She said that department heads also can be informed on what to say to the public.

The handout includes questions that people have asked various county board members and department heads on the Jail Expansion project. She said that this is something that the committee could take home and review and if there are any other questions that pop up they could also share them with her and then they could be included.

Ms. Johnson continued by stating, in addition to this, we can do things to make the public more aware of the overcrowding in the Jail. One of them is to create a video tour of the Jail that could be placed on our website. This is a suggestion that was made by Lt. Klein. She said that we can also do a series of news

releases depending on what stage we are with the project. We can invite speakers to go out and talk about the project to groups and organizations. We can make use of our website, news releases, daily updates, Chairman's newsletter, Sheriff's Facebook Page, etc.

Mr. Pietrowski, Jr. suggested that we could do town hall meetings too.

Mr. Oncken said that the interest may be less only because we are not doing a referendum now for the Jail construction.

Ms. Johnson said that that is one of the things that we have to get out to the public that we are not going to do a referendum.

The committee discussed that they have heard from the public that people asked them why we built an expansion to the courthouse when we needed a new jail (see #6 of handout).

Lt. Klein said that she wanted to point out that it is very nice and safe now that we have a secured walkway and area to walk the prisoners into the courthouse. This is great for officer safety and the safety of the public. This is something that we did not have previously in the courthouse.

Lt. Klein said some good words to use to describe why we need to expand the Jail are officer safety, needed space, program space, segregation for people with special needs.

Mr. Reid said that with items #1 and #6 - he feels that the first item should mention that changes in legislation and the criminal code have affected prison population in Illinois, whereby it has increased by 700%. Also the Cook County State's Attorney says that Illinois spends very little for mental health compared to other states. He felt that this is important to mention.

Lt. Klein said that these are both good comments to mention.

Chairman Jones asked Ms. Johnson to continue with the list and ideas for the committee.

Chairman Jones said that we need some good numbers of what it costs us for housing someone in our Jail. We need these numbers.

Ms. Askins said that we are looking for how many people have stayed overnight in the Jail.

Mr. Stefan said that off of the figures that he has it looks like it may come out to about \$91.00 a day.

COMPARATIVE RISKS OF ALTERNATIVES

Chairman Jones said that the comparative risks was an agenda item suggested by Mr. Reid at the last meeting with regards to what if we do nothing with the Jail.

Mr. Reid explained that the airline fuel sales tax, if we don't get it, this would be a significant thing that could affect the County.

Chairman Jones said that we are doing exactly what we said we would do and that is using the landfill money for the Jail. If we don't do the Jail now it will never get done. The money is there for the Jail now.

Ms. Askins said that we also have to look at the risk factor, which is, what if the Jail never gets done. This could be an immense liability factor for the County. There have already been some unfortunate things that have happened.

Chairman Jones said that Mr. Gary Hanson, County Administrator, will be talking about the Plan tomorrow evening at the County Board meeting for the whole County Board to hear.

Mr. Hanson informed the committee that the bond team is being assembled now. Preliminary estimates from the architects will come in the summer. Then in August 2015 we will need a financial adviser, he said.

FINANCING ON THE BUILD-OUT OF THE EAST POD

Chairman Jones said that Mr. Stoddard had asked about this item last month. He explained that if the time came and if a referendum could be used to build out the east pod in 2017 and go bigger, we would bid it so that the east pod would be an option. If we chose to at that time to go to a referendum we may even get better bids, he said. That is how he remembered it.

HOUSING FEDERAL PRISONERS AND A FEDERAL CONTRACT

Chairman Jones said that he does not have an issue if we build what we need in jail space, and then if we do have room, that the Sheriff could house federal prisoners. However, he does have a problem if we build a bigger jail to bring in the federal prisoners and make money on it. He feels that the City of Sycamore would have an issue with this also.

Mr. Pietrowski said that this should not even be part of a conversation with the Jail.

The committee agreed and said that housing federal prisoners should not be part of the County's plan to expand the Jail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Someone from the public asked what the size of the staff would be once the new jail is expanded.

Mr. Stefan said that there would be 7 positions in the corrections division and 1 maintenance position so a total of 8 new positions.

Another person commented that he was thankful to be able to listen to the struggle that the committee was going through on the jail issue. The committee thanked him.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee agreed on their next meeting date as Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 7:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Oncken, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Jones, Chairman

Mary C. Supple, Secretary