

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 28, 2009

The Montgomery County Jail Committee met Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Basement Meeting Room of the courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donna Robinson. There was a roll call of members with Dan Cain, Clint Rubey, Donna Robinson, Brad Wright, Ken Rech, Roger Ehmke, Drue Powers, Jim Sifford, and Jon Young. Visitors included James Johnson, Karen Blue, and Joni Ernst.

Motion to approve the agenda by Rubey, second by Powers. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Wright, second by Rubey to appoint Joni Ernst as clerk to the committee. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for public comments. No public comments.

The committee reviewed spreadsheets that showed the yearly intake population of the jail by month and divided into subcategories of males, females, juvenile males, and juvenile females. Additional figures showed the numbers of males and females housed outside of the county. Discussion followed with the agreement that the intake numbers need to be further broken down by days. Powers reviewed the requirements of separating types of offenders by sight and sound, the potential need for a padded cell, and solitary.

Sifford stated that this information should be reviewed by a hired consultant and they would determine what was necessary. Wright asked what the committee was looking for, as we have needs assessments from 2000, and Request for Qualifications (RFQs) from 2003. It was suggested that more up-to-date information may be necessary, and the committee could do a RFQ and use the responses to determine a short list of consultants to send Request for Proposals (RFPs).

The January 2009 letter received from Chief Jail Inspector Delbert Longley was read, as well as the March 2009 letter the Board of Supervisors sent to Longley outlining their timeline and accomplishments to-date.

The committee discussed what direction and action should be taken, whether the intent was a new jail, renovation of the old jail, or non-action which could result in the closure and housing of inmates out of Montgomery County. It was noted that the Supervisors' letter to Longley indicated the pursuit of a new jail. Robinson explained that the Board wanted to explore that avenue, as it was strongly suggested by Longley in his visit with the Board. Ernst stated that when Longley and Stu DeLaCastro, ISSDA Jail Committee Representative, met with the Supervisors, they had stated that in their personal opinion, the current facility could not be remodeled to meet the county's needs. Robinson stated all avenues should be explored so that solid information could be presented to the public.

Wright emphasized the need to educate the public on the funding of the jail, and that if a new jail is necessary, and is not funded through debt service, then it would be paid for out of the general fund, and then other areas of the county government will be drastically cut. Ernst stated that most of the county's activities are mandated, so it would be difficult to eliminate services.

Rech and Powers stated that a planner should be hired to explore all of these avenues, as the planner would have the expertise to sort through the information previously collected and review recent information.

Wright asked if this would be the appropriate time to see if a joint law enforcement center would be feasible, or if it would be a deal killer. Discussion followed.

It was suggested that RFQs be sent to those that responded to the last RFQ in 2003, and those that showed interest in this recent project. Motion by Rech, second by Ehmke to publish a public notice of RFQ in the official newspapers of the county and in a regional paper, and to send RFQs to past participants and those that have contacted us recently. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Wright, second by Rubey to appoint a subcommittee to prepare and finalize the RFQ and scope of services to be brought to the committee for decision. All in favor. Motion carried. Consensus of the committee that Rech, Powers, and Wright serve on the subcommittee.

The committee set their next meeting for Monday, May 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Basement Meeting Room of the courthouse.

Motion by Young, second by Powers to adjourn. All in favor. The committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DONNA ROBINSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: JONI K. ERNST, CLERK