

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

These are “unofficial minutes” written from my memory and a few notes. We will elect a secretary at our next meeting.

Organizational meeting of the Montgomery County Jail Committee met Monday, April 6 at the Jail. Donna Robinson who had been appointed chairperson by the Board of Supervisors called meeting to order. Roll call answered by the following members present: Ron Brown, Dan Cain, Ken Rech, Donna Robinson, Clint Rubey, Julie Rubey, Joe Sampson, Jim Sifford, Margaret Stoldorf, & Jon Young. Also present were Steve Ratcliff and Kevin Stillman of the Daily Nonpareil.

Approval of amended agenda, being amended to voting on a chairperson. Following nominations, and motions and show of hands vote, Donna Robinson will remain chairperson, and Joe Sampson, vice chair.

The committee moved on to a lengthy tour of the kitchen, jail cells, and booking and receiving areas of the jail led by Sheriff Sampson and Chief Jailer Mike Sanchez. Sampson and Sanchez answered numerous questions from the committee who voiced extreme concern for safety of the staff and the prisoners.

Following the tour, the committee returned to the meeting room and viewed the DVD “Myths of a Jail”. Discussion began at the conclusion of the film. Numerous questions were posed as to the direction the Board of Supervisors wish to pursue. Materials handed out gave committee members data to review including jail inspection reports from 2004-2008, yearly intake population numbers from 2006-2008, and basic transportation costs to transport inmates to area counties. Information regarding the last bond issue from November 2000 was read and reviewed. There was further discussion on if a jail is built, where to build and what size should be built. Suggestions were made to use land the county already owns, either the lot adjoining the Sheriff’s office or the county farm. Included at this time was the possibility of a regional facility. Also mention of including/combining with the Red Oak City police to make it a complete law enforcement center.(office spaces) Other topics discussed were fair and equitable ways to fund this, classification of prisoners and how to house them, the possibility of privately funding a facility and leasing it back to the county, and a need for a consultant trained in the area of jail facilities.

General conclusion from the group is to have an architectural consultant provide us with specific needs based on our demographics. Robinson will have an agenda item at the Board of Supervisors meeting to address this and determine how to fund such consultant.

Before the committee meets again, Sheriff Sampson and his jail staff will gather specific information and numbers including costs of transportation for inmates taken to other counties, daily prisoner count, costs of becoming a holding facility only, medical and dental transportation costs, court travel costs, daily costs to run the jail as it is. A need for detailed, specific data is very important.

Next meeting time and date to be determined as soon as important information is secured.

Meeting adjourned.

Donna Robinson, Chairperson.