

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 11, 2009

The Montgomery County Jail Committee met Monday, May 11, 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 Ron Brown, Dan Cain, Roger Ehmke, Jim Parker, Drue Powers, Ken Rech, Donna Robinson, Joe Sampson, Jim Sifford, Margaret Stoldorf, and Brad Wright. Visitors included Chief Jail Inspector Delbert Longley, Steve Ratcliff, and Michelle Petri. Committee Member Clint Rubey arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda by Stoldorf, second by Sifford. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

Motion by Wright, second by Powers to approve the minutes as read. Minutes were approved and stand as read.

The Chairman called for public comments. No public comments.

The Chairman introduced Chief Jail Inspector Delbert Longley, and asked that he give a review of the last jail inspection for the group. Longley reviewed the points that were deficient during the inspection including rusting fixtures, low water pressure, prisoner personal effect storage, audio monitoring within the jail, and deteriorating foundation and walls. Wright stated that many of the issues seemed to be easily fixable, and he asked about the foundation of the structure. Longley said that it was a huge issue, and that the bricks are deteriorating, and would not be an easy fix. He said the structural integrity is questionable, as one crumbling wall seems to be a load-bearing wall. Longley said that Louisa and Poweshiek Counties have old jails that are in better condition than Montgomery County's, but they are both currently constructing new jails.

Sifford asked if rehabilitating the current jail was possible, would the separation of prisoner types be a deal breaker. Longley said yes, that the various prisoner categories must be sight and sound separated, and although they are sight separated now, it would be very difficult to accomplish the separations in the current facility, and needs to be addressed. Sampson stated that the current facility can only hold four prisoners if they are all of different prisoner categories.

Brown asked if the jail could be expanded into the north residential area. Rech responded that the construction in the north area was made as a residence, and didn't have jail construction. If the area was to be renovated it would have to be from the foundation up.

Additional discussion followed regarding the possibilities of upgrading or converting the existing facility, and the budget allocated for jail maintenance. Rech had read that in FY 2008 it had been \$28,000.

Longley showed a slideshow presentation with photos of the jail facilities at the time of the jail inspection.

Rubey asked Parker and Rech if the red brick of the jail could have been preserved if there had been better maintenance in the past 100 years. Parker said that it could have been tuckpointed, but that the red brick deteriorates over time. Rech said that moisture breaks it down, and it would have helped if dehumidifiers had been available at the time.

Wright asked if other counties utilized existing facilities. Longley stated that Louisa County explored the possibility of using the old county home, but the recommendation was to use the home as offices, and add on prisoner cells. He also said that their jail was not yet at the point of deterioration that Montgomery County is.

Parker asked how many prisoners could be housed in the current facility if it was updated. Longley said not many, because of the separation requirements. He said that the requirement is 1500 unencumbered square feet for twenty prisoners, plus a booking area and exercise area. The exercise area must have fifteen square feet of space for each prisoner using the area at one time.

The committee moved on to the next agenda item, review of inmate population broken down into specific daily numbers. Sampson stated Mike Sanchez was working on the numbers, but they weren't completed yet.

The committee reviewed the RFQ prepared by Wright, Rech, and Powers. The June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline was discussed, and if the RFQ would be advertised too late for the deadline. Rech said it should be okay. Robinson asked how the limited funding for a study could be communicated to the applicants. Wright stated that wasn't part of the RFQ process. Motion by Rubey to accept the proposal, second by Sifford. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wright said the ad for the RFQ would be published in the Red Oak Express, Villisca Review and Omaha World-Herald. Motion by Wright to publish in those papers, second by Stoldorf. All in favor. Motion carried.

There was additional discussion regarding funding, which will be addressed at future meetings.

Ernst advised that members of the committee could pick up the RFQs at her office on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for review prior to the next meeting.

The committee set their next meeting for Monday, June 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Basement Meeting Room of the courthouse.

Motion by Powers, second by Wright to adjourn. All in favor. The committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

DONNA ROBINSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: JONI K. ERNST, CLERK