

JAIL OPERATING CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(JOCAC) MEETING

**APPROVED  
AS CORRECTED**

**01.13.2015**  
*Corrections noted in red.*

November 18, 2014 7:00 p.m. MINUTES

Columbia County Justice Facility, Parole & Probation Training Room

Committee Members Present: Dennis Kenna, Garret Lines, Harvey Bilton, Jamie Maygra, Jeff Auxier, Greg Hinkleman, Dick Lauger, Rita Bernhard

Staff Present: Jennifer Cuellar, Sarah Hanson, Andy Moyer, Jean Ripa, Tony Weaver, Brian Pixley

Visitors Present: Brady Preheim, Nancy Ward

Public Comment: Mr. Preheim talked about the recent press and inability to find staffing. He thinks it has to do with the lack of confidence in the jail's ability to last beyond three years. He thinks the jail needs to be honest about its costs and how it will be funded in the future.

Presentations:

Undersheriff Moyer updated the JOCAC on the status of hiring for the Jail. Conditional offers of employment have been offered to three people which means they just have to undergo the final psychological and medical exams before starting work. Then all new hires have to go through on the job training and the State academy. There are more vacancies to be filled because several employees who had started looking for work before the levy passed have gone on to other jobs. He talked about the recruitment process and answered questions from Committee members and short term hiring of temporary employees. Moyer also talked about the challenges related to enrolling new hires in the limited academies offered by the State.

Maygra asked how many beds are actually filled. Moyer responded: 255 total beds in facility. 110 beds are funded with 25 set aside for local offenders. But due to the levy funding, the County is able to fill 40-45 beds for local offenders. As of this morning, 48 beds were filled by local offenders. The other beds are filled by federal inmates. The levy funds up to 100 local beds. Captain Weaver explained that with the pods set aside for certain reasons (female, high security, etc), the amount of general offenders that can be housed is less than the total amount of beds available.

Moyer responded to questions about the detailed training that new deputy hires must undergo. Cpt. Weaver noted that in house training is almost as many hours as is provided in the State academy. Moyer also talked about the field training officer process.

Jean Ripa, HR/IT Director, talked about the inadequacies of the current jail management system and the need to replace two other Jail system - the HVAC and DVR systems - which are not able to update to Windows 7 and represent a serious security risk to the County. The Jail management system replacement was included in the levy. In addition, other capital expenses were included in the levy.

Captain Tony Weaver talked to the JOCAC about the need for a transport van, to repair showers in the pods and on the construction/repairs following inmate caused flood damage. Two trips into Portland daily. Other trips as well. 10-12 inmates per trip. Van breaking down. Transmission replaced, HVAC isn't working. With more inmates we will do more inmate transport in lieu of the Marshals. Transporting is a positive funding stream for the County.

Van is included in the budget. But, there is no vehicle replacement fund. Retired police vehicles can be used for local transports. The pre-2010 van could be used if it is serviced before each use. Showers in every unit need to be repaired. When constructed, floors were constructed away from the drains so there are flooding problems. Water is coming through walls and there are mold issues. Showers need to be rebuilt completely. Looking at approximately \$100,000-\$120,000. If we put it in this year's budget with fewer inmates it would be easier than when more beds are filled. The item isn't an identified budget item, but would fall under the general capital line item. Finally, sheet rock replaced in booking due to flooding caused by an inmate at a cost of \$8500.00. **NOTE regarding the condition of the Jail: Committee member, Lester Kahr recalls that he was told that it was in really good condition.**

Jennifer Cuellar, Finance Director, talked to the JOCAC about tracking expenditures for Jail Operations. Jennifer submitted a financial package. She plans to provide a financial package on a quarterly basis. This first package includes background information as well, including this fiscal year's budget; and information about the County's budget process. Jamie Maygra asked about the per prisoner cost for Federal inmates and the perception that we're running a deficit because of the Federal inmates. Andy explained that the minimum cost to operate the jail stays the same regardless of the number of federal inmates. The Sheriff recently negotiated a \$2.50 per inmate increase from the US Marshals. Andy will provide the presentation about what it would cost to run the Jail without the US Marshals. The Sheriff's Office invites suggestions for how we can operate the Jail without Marshal beds. The Committee will study the financial package and ask questions next meeting.

Committee Roundtable/Discussion for next agenda. The Committee asked for historical data about costs to operate the Jail for the last 5 years. The Committee will also like an update on property tax collections. The Committee would like information about the number of inmates being sent from municipal courts. Andy is working on a list of deferred maintenance projects. The Committee would like to approve the minutes.

The Committee will skip December and meet for the next time January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.