

Commissioner Work Sessions (jail)

Date/Time/Place: Tuesday, September 9, 2014 2pm Commissioners Conference Room Courthouse

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Al Ambrosini, Commissioner Vince Zapotosky, Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink

County Officials & Staff Present:

Clerk of Courts Janice Snyder

Tammy Lambie, Court Administrator Office

Art Capella, Office of Planning Zoning Community Development

Dave Bukovan, Office of Planning Zoning Community Development

Warden Brian Miller

Deputy Warden Barry Croftcheck

Assistant County Solicitor Sheryl Heid

Other County-Related Persons In Attendance:

none (Day Reporting Center could not attend)

Public: in attendance

Commissioner Zimmerlink began the work session began at 2pm.

Legal Notice: *The Fayette County Commissioners will hold Commissioner Work Sessions, as needed, with said purpose to address jail overcrowding, jail programs and all matters concerning new construction, renovations or expansion of the county jail. Said Commissioner Work Sessions will be held, as needed, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 2pm and the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 10am effective September 2014 in the Commissioners conference room of the Fayette County Courthouse, 61 East Main Street, Uniontown PA.*

Zimmerlink identified those present and those who were informed of this work session and future sessions. The topics to be discussed are land use/zoning, grant status, the day reporting center if they are able to attend and jail issues/questions.

Commissioner Zapotosky said he would kick start by asking the Warden the average jail population both in house and out of county rental for the past few years and the condition of the jail saying the information is needed to discuss expansion or addition of the facility. Zapotosky said we need information about land use requirements from our zoning office.

- **Warden/Deputy Warden discussion on population, building condition and work release/weekend needs**

The average daily population (estimate) is 240 inmates which is the main jail and annex. The average out of county rental is 45 inmates per day which include male and female. When asked by Zapotosky if there was an increase of 100 beds and building changes to the mail jail if that would satisfy the needs taking into consideration the projections of inmate growth. The Warden said that would be a good start. The Warden said modifications to the jail would result in a 30% loss of bed space equating to about a loss of 36 beds. To address the work release/weekend population, to start, there is a need for 20-25 male and 10 female beds needed.

Zapotosky informed the attendees that the focus now will be on a smaller condensed project.

Snyder asked if the current jail separates pre-trial from sentenced inmates either within the main jail or the annex. The Warden said he has a report to show the number of inmates sentenced and number awaiting trial but he does not have a report showing where they are housed.

Ambrosini said Crabtree's design has 12 cells set aside for Intake.

Crabtree's design also included cells for juveniles charged as adults. The Warden believes in last 2 years about 5 juveniles charged as adults were housed in the county jail.

The Warden confirmed he would review the Crabtree design and provide us with the number of cells and how allocated before the next Commissioner Work Session.

It was asked how many rooms/space is needed for Programs. Ambrosini said the plans show 2 large rooms, a CYS family room, 6 or so counseling rooms, a few attorney rooms and a MDJ office.

Solicitor Heid said there is no privacy or security currently and attorneys meet with their client either in their cell or by standing outside of the cell.

Zapotosky asked Ambrosini to bring the plans the next session.

- **Dave Bukovan, Chief of Zoning discussion land use/Uniontown**

From zoning aspect of it, K-2 Engineering handles the zoning and UCC for Uniontown. Bukovan was asked what if, any role, does the county zoning office have and he said none as it is outside the county's jurisdiction.

Bukovan is to obtain the city's zoning ordinance, UCC and other procedures for hearings etc for Uniontown, be it new build, renovations etc.

- **Art Capella, Grantwriter – Office of Planning Zoning & Community Development**

Capella said there were 3 grant applications submitted over the past several months.

EDA grant submitted June 14, 2014 total \$1,283,064 with the county's match at \$576,082 and federal funds at \$641,532. The grant was denied because the EDA program is pro-business and did not see this as an economic development project. It needs to be a public/private project. Tried to paint the picture that after the JRC was built businesses could move in. The purpose of the grant was to provide sanitary sewer line for the entire site. Zapotosky asked if there was ability to ask for reconsideration and Capella said yes. The next reapplication is October 17, 2014. Zapotosky directed Capella to obtain letters of support for reconsideration given the new venue of Uniontown and business growth. Solicitor Heid asked if the county had to show job creation and if a new jail was built or expansion and new jobs created if that would be considered new development. Capella confirmed it needed to be both private and public project.

DCED grant submitted May 16, 2014 total \$77,000 with a county match of \$11,500. The purpose of the grant was for sewage laterals. The status of this grant is it is in process. Capella said this grant also can be modified.

ARC grant was submitted April 25, 2013 total \$1,336,138 with a county match of \$836,138.00 The grant is for a local access road. Funds are available for about a year. Scope of work and modifications can be made to this grant. The status of this grant is under consideration. For this grant the money is not available until this time next year. Zimmerlink confirmed with Ambrosini that this was discussed and voted at both the executive session and general session of the CCAP meeting.

Capella has been looking for construction grants as well.

- **Tammy Lambie, Court Administrator Office spoke about Central Court**

Hoping to have renovations by October 1st with opening at the end of October. The city is doing to renovations with the county leasing 2 years. There will be preliminary criminal hearings starting with the PSP first then with MDJ's. The plan is to have all the municipalities to have the preliminary hearings at the Central Court in Uniontown.

Ambrosini confirmed the new JRC has a central court in the design plans.

Lambie and the Warden confirmed there is an average of 6-8 video conferencing per week. These are for summary cases only.

- **General Discussion**

Zapotosky said it is good to look at other options. This is a transitional facility with an average stay of 180 days.

- **Public Comment**

Marybeth Homistek asked Zapotosky if there is still a plan to use Crabtree? He said it has not been decided. Homistek asked if there were any reports of the Prison Work Group meetings. Ambrosini said members took their personal notes. Ambrosini said all shared their notes with Crabtree and an economic study was completed.

Commissioner Work Session ended 3:20 pm

By: Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink, Secretary