

Whatcom County Law & Justice Council
JAIL PLANNING TASK FORCE
Thursday, July 7, 2011, 7:30 a.m.
Garden Room, 322 North Commercial Street, Bellingham

Amended Minutes

PRESENT: Peter Dworkin, Chair, Lisa McShane, Co-Chair, Ray Baribeau, Doralee Booth, Marianne Caldwell, Dave Christensen, Pete Dawson, Anne Deacon, Dewey Desler, Caleb Erickson, Wendy Jones, Erik Ramstead, Barbara Sternberger, John Wilson. Others Present: Mike Russell, Kathy Berg, Tawni Helmes, Kathy Mohebbi.

Roll Call

An Attendance Roster is attached.

June 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended.

Report Snohomish County Jail Tour

Ray Baribeau coordinated two group visits to the Snohomish County Jail, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 21 and 22. Participants in the group visits shared the following information and perspectives with Task Force members:

- The Snohomish County Jail cost 86 million dollars to build and is seven floors tall.
- The medical unit is separate. Impressed with the medical unit.
- There is a 40 bed psych unit.
- The deputy to inmate ratio is up to 1 – 79.
- Visitation is by video only.
- Snohomish County is subsidizing rates.
- There are dementia issues with the aging jail population.
- It was an “eye-opener” to see all the different populations in the jail.
- 120-130 Department of Corrections inmates are housed at the jail.
- The jail includes 1, 2, and 4 bed cells.
- There is a video courtroom and inmates appear before judges.
- Many options are available for housing to keep inmate populations, including gang members and mental health patients in check. Impressed with the direct staffing supervision.
- Sergeant Stites said that there is no staffing difference between a vertical and horizontal jail, just response time.

County Budget Overview

Dewey Desler reviewed the following **Projected Funding for the New Jail under Review**. Up to 70 million is possibly available through 2016 for: planning, architecture & engineering, property acquisition & development, construction, sales tax, contingencies, fixtures, equipment and furnishings. “ **Please see the attached Power Point presentation which includes:**

- I. Funding Sources
- II. Detailed Funding Sources by Year
 - See Assumption #9.
 - The level of scrutiny is significant
- III. Available reserves which include the following estimates:
 - General Fund Reserves, Jail Fund Reserves, REET 1
- IV. Councilmatic Bonds repaid over 25 years, annual figures include:
 - Corrections Tax, REET I, General Fund and Daily Rate.
 - See assumption #10
- V. Estimated Daily Rate in 2016

Attached 1-10 Assumptions discussed included:

Assumption 7: Debt services on cost of jail development will be partially recovered by a per diem rate charged to external agencies under the agreement with the county executed prior to the construction of the new facility.

ACTION ITEMS

- Agenda for “mapping out” **the work plan**
Confirmation that we need a new jail
 - Look @ facilities. See both facilities
- Determine optimum size of the jail
 - Components of the jail? Expandable? Operations? Each cost calculation next to each program
 - What should be read on optimum size? Distribute information through “Drop Box?”
- Location
 - Final Candidate Sites-Total 9, 9 Sites narrowed to 6
 - 2 Final Sites and Recommendations

The meeting was adjourned @ 9:35 a.m. **The next meeting of the Jail Planning Task Force will be held @ 7:30 a.m., July 21, in the Civic Center Garden Room, 322 North Commercial Street, Bellingham.**