



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Room 100 – Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll call – Present: Doug Johnson, Rob Pallarito, Ken Borton, Paul Liss, Rachel Frisch, Chris Churches, George Mertz, Matt Nowicki, Matt Muladore, Brian Webber, Jennifer Pewinski, Kim Awrey, Frank Claeys

Others present – Tracey Cruz, Christine Gebhard, Trisha Adam, Mel Maier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A - previous meeting minutes approved via email

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facility Discussion

Ms. Frisch discusses the current state of the Alpine Center, County Jail and safety and security at the County Courthouse Building. The Alpine Center is in current need of extensive repair and maintenance to continue operations. The conservative estimate, provided by Joe Switalski, Facilities Maintenance Director (Gaylord AARF), to make the necessary repair and maintenance work would cost approximately \$3-6 million. Ms. Frisch noted that this estimate is strictly to manage the eroding pipes, leaks and deteriorating building. Ms. Frisch addressed the Jail conditions. The Jail is a 35 bed facility that currently, cannot accommodate the County's sentenced population. Judge Mertz noted that due to the inadequate size of the Jail facilities, there is very little ability to enforce judgments such as paying child support. Ms. Frisch noted that the County proposed a millage for a new Jail facility near the Alpine Center years ago, which failed. Ms. Frisch then addressed the County Courthouse, 225 West Main Street. She noted that years ago, outside professional organizations reviewed the safety and security at the Courthouse. All organizations provided a consistent message, which was that the safety and security surrounding the Courthouse was not adequate.

Ms. Frisch noted that we're at a crossroads now with the safety and security of the Courthouse, the deteriorating Alpine Center and the inadequate Jail facility. Ms. Frisch noted that we are stewards of public funds and asked if spending money on the Alpine Center is the best use of funds. Ms. Frisch presented the idea of a public safety complex (the "Complex") that could accommodate the Sheriff, Prosecutor, Court Administration, Probation/Parole, Work Camp, Road Patrol, Courts, Jail and Jail Office departments. The remaining departments of MSU extension, Conservation and Equalization could move into the existing Jail building, provided some renovation is completed. The Complex could be located at the existing 9 acre Dog Park in

Gaylord and the Dog Park could be relocated near the Complex and still be available for public use. The empty Alpine Center could be used for future educational growth opportunities. Ms. Frisch notes there are a lot of questions to ask and asks the group for their thoughts and concerns.

Mr. Liss inquires as to the cost of renovating the existing Jail location to house MSU extension, Conservation and Equalization. Ms. Frisch estimates that costs should not exceed \$1 million. Mr. Liss questions if that is the best use of funds available.

Mr. Claeys inquires as to how many beds are being looked at in the Complex idea. 90 is the current assumption, however Mr. Claeys notes that perhaps more would be more adequate. If that is not possible, plan to be able to expand to accommodate more beds in the future.

Mr. Claeys notes that traffic flow will need to be considered if the Dog Park location is selected.

Representatives from Community Mental Health note that adequate parking will need to be considered for this Complex. Mr. Webber agrees with this statement and notes that there can be 100 jurors during a session.

Mr. Churches and Ms. Frisch provide a preliminary cost of \$24,615,982.72. Ms. Frisch notes that the a millage could be requested would be on the November 2020 ballot.

Ms. Frisch asks the group if this seems to be the right direction. No one voices any disapproval.

B. Department Updates

No department updates provided at this time

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Next Meeting will be communicated when available.