



**Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee**  
Monday, January 6, 2020 at 10:00am  
Otsego County Building, 225 W. Main, Room 100  
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:02am

Roll Call- Present: Doug Johnson, Ken Borton, Paul Liss, Rob Pallarito, Rachel Frisch, Matt Nowicki, Matt Muladore, Brian Webber, Mike Turnbull

Others Present- Chris Churches, Joseph Mrak, David Duffield, Denise Pallarito, Cathy Landry, Rob Conley, Mary Kaye Butkovich, Melissa Fitzgerald, Matt Barresi, Jackie Haag, Tracey Cruz, Jim Mouch, Karissa Williams, Mel Maier

**II. APPROVAL/REVISION TO AGENDA**

Motion by Rachel Frisch to Remove Item B from New Business second by Paul Liss, motion carried

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ken Borton to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting second by Rob Pallarito, motion carried

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. None

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation of the Final Report from Byce and Associates**

Presentation by Mr Mrak from Byce and Associates Inc on the final feasibility report. Phase I and II have been completed. Preliminary findings had recommended 90- 100 Jail Beds, but after interviews with Department Heads and collecting data it was found that more beds would be necessary. The results of what was found suggested that the need long-term would actually be around 120-170 beds. The average jail size in Michigan is 3.2 beds per 1,000 population, Otsego County right now is at 1.4 per 1,000, roughly one-third of the average. The study also revealed that the jail that we have now is highly inadequate and has no way to accommodate inmates with mental health issues. Mr Mrak presented a modern jail design that would be much more effective. The final recommendation from Byce and Associates was to build a 120 bed jail with room for a 48 bed expansion in the future. He also recommended that the "Dog Park" area between Illinois Ave and South Otsego Ave would be the best place to construct the Complex as the County owns 9 acres of property there which would give ample room for the project. Mr Mrak presented 2 different possibilities for the design of the Complex, the first being a 2-story building with the first floor being the Sheriff's Department and Courts being on the second floor. A "Pod Style" jail would be on 2 levels connected to the building. Option 2 would be comprised of 2 separate buildings; one for the Courts and the other for the Sheriff's Department and the Jail with a

connecting corridor. Both Option 1 and Option 2 have relatively the same cost. Expansion down the road could be slightly easier with Option 2 but operationally Option 1 would be better. The Committee unanimously selected Option 1.

**B. Facility Name**

Several options were considered for a name for the project:

- Otsego County Public Safety Complex
- Otsego County Public Safety Center
- Otsego County Criminal Justice Center
- Otsego County Justice Complex
- Otsego County Justice Center
- Otsego County Justice and Public Safety Complex
- Otsego County Justice and Public Safety Center
- Otsego County Center for Public Safety
- Otsego County Hall of Justice

The Committee first narrowed the options to two: Otsego County Justice Complex and Otsego County Justice Center. The Committee voted in favor of naming the proposed facility the “Otsego County Justice Complex”.

**C. Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners**

Motion by Rob Pallarito second by Sheriff Nowicki to accept the feasibility study conducted by Byce and Associates and to recommend to the full Board of Commissioners constructing, equipping, furnishing and operating a new Justice Complex in Otsego County. Motion carried with unanimous approval.

Project funding, resolution, ballot language and the millage rate will be determined by the Budget and Finance Committee at their next meeting on January 15, 2020.

**D. Education Team**

Ms Frisch introduced the Education Team. The purpose of the Education Team is to educate the public on this issue.

**E. Citizens Committee**

Ms Frisch introduced Denise Pallarito who is in charge of the Citizens for a Safer Otsego County Committee.

**F. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Undersheriff Muladore stated that Caleb Dean is off of field training and that the Sheriff’s Department now has 9 officers on the road.

Ms Haag of 9-1-1 stated that they have 1 new employee but they still have 3 vacancies at 9-1-1. They are performing interviews to get position filled.

Mr Turnbull from Probation/Parole stated they are at full staff with 3 employees. He also stated that each staff member handles 50 to 90 cases.

Mr Mouch Building Department Director, enjoyed the presentation and supports the complex.

Ms Butkovich and Mr Conley from Clark Construction Group introduced themselves, they both have many years' experience with detention center construction.

**VI. Adjourn**

Mr Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:45am.