

MINUTES
JAIL STUDY ADHOC COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday March 4, 2021
TIME: 11:30 AM
LOCATION: Courthouse – Room 114

Members Present: Laura Valenstein, Jake Hahn, John Hokamp, Adam Fischer, Lee Thao, and Dave LaFontaine

Members Present Virtually: Al Breu

Others Present: Bill Clendenning, Reuben VanTassel, Ed Newton, Peter Kastenholz, William Winch, Shawn Becker, Susanna Pearson, Ted Ashbeck, Quentin Ellis, Dennis Polach, John Cain, Kurt Berner, and Janelle Krueger

1. Chair Valenstein called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Motion by LaFontaine and seconded by Hokamp to approve the minutes with a correction made in the spelling of Breu in the members present section of the minutes. Motion carries by voice vote.
4. AEGIS was not available so item was tabled for a future meeting.
5. John Cain of Venture Architects and Kurt Berner from the Samuels Group discuss the material that was provided for the County Board in August of 2020 based on the study that was completed looking at options for a new jail. John and Kurt walk through the varying options paying special attention to option four which was more recently considered. The committee discusses many of the challenges with option four and decides that this option likely makes little to no sense to move forward on. There is discussion regarding the new build options along with solar energy and the challenges and cost associated. John and Kurt are both asked as to what option they would recommend both identifying that a new building would be more cost effective and allow the current jail to function during the build avoiding the out of county housing costs. In addition, conversation is had over the option to have two larger pods rather than a three pod style and the benefits and challenges with this option. There is conversation on the projected costs along with the reality that while costs are projected they are not hard costs that can be counted on. There is conversation about the give and take that will likely happen at each stage of the build where based on cost things may be outside of the scope of the budget and may need to either be cut or increases may need to

happen in the budget. There is consensus that a design should be decided on, which will allow more progress in terms of developing a plan for moving forward with a recommendation. The committee agrees to make a decision on a design option at the next meeting to move forward with gathering more information and data.

6. Jail Incident – Sheriff Becker reports that this has been the first attempt since this committee was established and commends CO Timothy Habeck and CO Danielle Amato for their intuition and prompt response identifying that this scenario had no warning signs and these two employees specifically went above and beyond in their action. The committee discussed the rates of attempts in the jail and numbers will be provided at the next meeting.

Structural Concern – The committee discussed with Reuben VanTassel concerns about joint that connects the old jail to the new jail. Reuben discussed how this is a cold joint that joins the two sections of building identifying that the structure is in good condition but the joint will continue to need patching as it adjoins to separate pieces of building.

Safe Keeper – The committee discusses the report provided by the Wood County Jail/Sheriff's Department regarding the safe keeper reports for 2020 and 2021 talking through costs associated with out of county placement and challenges.

Soft Costs – The Sheriff's Department provided the requested information regarding soft costs associated with option four which had earlier in the meeting been deemed an option that wasn't advantageous to continue considering as a result these reports were not discussed further. Conversation regarding Avon Street and acquiring that access did ensue and will be considered further at a future meeting.

7. The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the Wood County Courthouse, Room 114.
8. Chair Valenstein adjourned the meeting at 1:17 PM.

Minutes taken by Janelle Krueger, Criminal Justice Coordinator, and are in draft form pending approval of the committee.