

**COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL JOINT
MEETING, JUNE 29, 2009**

**JOHNSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPLEX EXPANSION PROJECT
PUBLIC HEARING**

County Commissioner John Price called the June 29, 2009 County Council and County Commissioners' special joint meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The following Council members were present: Brian Walker, Anita Knowles, Josh McCarty, Ron West, Beth Boyce, and Steve Hollenbeck. Charlie Canary arrived at 8:09 p.m.

The following Board of Commissioners members were present: Tom Kite, Troy DeHart and John Price.

JOHNSON COUNTY JUSTICE COMPLEX- DISCUSSION: John Price, Commissioner, stated he would like to thank everyone for coming to the public hearing. Mr. Price stated the purpose of this meeting is to hold a public hearing for the Council and Commissioners to vote on adopting a resolution to issue general obligation bonds and/or enter into a proposed lease with an Indiana Nonprofit Building Corporation. Mr. Price stated he hoped everyone on the Council and the Commissioners has had a chance to go over the materials that have been discussed at prior special meetings. Mr. Price stated they have looked into possible expansion of a new court and the State mandate of reducing the Counties PSAPS from four to two within the Criminal Justice Complex Expansion project.

Richard Starkey, Barnes & Thornburg, stated he encourages the public to make comments at this meeting about the project. Mr. Starkey also stated this step, having the public hearing, is the first of many steps for this project.

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin stated since 2005 the Jail Committee study group has met to discuss possible solutions to the overcrowding issue. Sheriff McLaughlin stated it is responsibility to report to the Commissioners on the need of more space at the Jail. Sheriff McLaughlin stated he understands the burden this puts on the taxpayers, but the space is needed to also protect the taxpayers.

Rob Creviston, Project Manager for Structurepoint, and Paul Downing, Criminal Justice Planner with DLZ, gave a brief overview of each Justice Complex option. Mr. Creviston stated the Master Plan (2-8 years) would cost \$81,231,250.00, the Critical Needs (2 years) would cost \$30,956,250.00, and the Immediate Needs (2 -5 years) would cost \$39,056,250.00 (on pages 32, 33, 34 and 35 of the original power point). Mr. Creviston stated site improvement work would cost between \$2,125,000 and \$2,200,000 no matter what option is chosen.

Mr. Downing also briefly discussed the following topics:

- History of the Jail
- Several factors influencing jail population (i.e. court scheduling, probation polices, housing by classification, FTA rates, State Legislature and Bail/Bond Practice)
- Bookings have increased by 1500 from 2002-2008
- Average length of stay- 11 days and 9 hours in 2007 and 2008
- Average daily jail population is 309
- Court notification calls- help to reduce total number of FTA's
- Projected bed needs by 2030=527
- Results of doing nothing- federal lawsuit, housing of inmates out of County
- Benefits to building now
- Proposal of moving utilities
- Current damage to exterior of existing jail
- Estimate of probable utility operational costs
- Estimated staffing and costs
- Relocate County Highway

Donna Sipe, Court Administrator, stated she would be speaking on behalf of Judge Mark Loyd. Ms. Sipe stated the last Court that was brought on board was Superior Court 3 in 1997. Ms. Sipe stated since that time the Counties case load has continued to grow. Ms. Sipe stated according to the 2008 Judicial Court data Johnson County needs 9.8 Judicial Officers to handle the case load. Ms. Sipe stated Johnson County currently has only six. Ms. Sipe stated the need is there and needs to be addressed. Ms. Sipe also stated the criminal case load is increasing the most right now. Ms. Sipe stated there has been a marked increase in the more serious C class felonies.

Mr. Price stated the Commissioners received a response letter to the letter that was sent by Bill Barrett, requesting the use of Indiana National Guards handgun, rifle and tactical weapon training facilities located at Camp Atterbury. Mr. Price stated R. Martin Umbarger, Major General, Indiana Army National Guard The Adjutant General, has allowed the use of the facility to the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Price stated with this facility to use the price of the firing range in the project can be reduced significantly. Mr. Price stated improvements can be made to the existing site, instead of a new facility.

Mr. Starkey explained the general obligation bonds and the leasing with the Indiana Nonprofit Building Corporation.

Mike Reuter, Financial Advisor, stated he is before the Boards to explain the tax increase on the taxpayers if the Bonds were issued. Mr. Reuter explained the following increases on the three different project options:

Option	A	\$.1380 per \$100
Option	B	\$.0531 per \$100
Option	C	\$.0073 per \$100

Mr. Reuter stated a property owner with an assessed value of \$100,000.00 would pay an additional \$30.00 per year. Mr. Reuter stated the figures do not take into any LOIT monies which the County can consider as a way to fund the bonds. Mr. Reuter stated agriculture or commercial assessed at \$100,000.00 would pay \$106.00 per year.

Public Comment:

Jill Jackson, Clerk, stated she would like to explain the referendum process a little bit in detail to the Council and Commissioners. Ms. Jackson explained the following steps for the referendum:

- Publish notice in paper
- Petitions ready for signatures
- 15- days to certify signatures by Clerks Office
- 15- days to certify signatures by Auditors Office
- 15- days to certify results
- 100 signatures required to hold special election
- Auditor certify public question to Election Board within 60 days before next election
- Hold election no earlier than 90 days and no later than 120 days

Ms. Jackson stated a County wide special election would cost approximately \$150,000.00. Ms. Jackson also stated there is a new law in the Special Session that could take effect that would clean up the referendum law. Ms. Jackson stated under the new law the Auditor has to certify 60 days before the primary or August 1st.

Bill Pfifer, Franklin resident, asked why more firms were not allowed to present options on the project than the two. Mr. Pfifer also stated other options need to be looked at to save the taxpayers money on the project. Mr. Pfifer also stated Morgan County just did a Jail expansion for \$8 million. Mr. Pfifer stated he understands that Morgan County is a lot smaller County than Johnson County.

Dick Huber, Greenwood resident, thanked the Council and Commissioners for having the public forum. Mr. Huber also stated this is a lot of information for the public to hear for the first time. Mr. Huber also stated a lot of public education needs to be done for the public to understand this project.

Carrie Miles, Public Defender, stated she feels like a lot of the public safety tactics are fear factors. Ms. Miles stated the problems that exist now in the Jail need to be addressed before an expansion is voted upon. Ms. Miles also stated the increase in case loads will not change until there is a systemic change with how the human beings are treated at the Jail. Ms. Miles stated the offenders that can go through a rehabilitation program offered by Community Corrections need to be going through that program. Ms. Miles stated if a good rehabilitation job is done those offenders will not be repeat offenders. Ms. Miles also stated the County does not have the money now do to this expansion.

Gary Young, Nineveh resident, stated the County has spent too much money in the last few years on projects that were not needed in his opinion. Mr. Young also stated the land where the Oren Wright Building was needs to be built back as office space and a two-story parking garage. Mr. Young stated he does agree that the firing range is needed out of the whole Jail Expansion Project. Mr. Young also stated the inmates need to be put to work within the County. Mr. Young stated they could work in twelve hour shifts.

David Stahl, Franklin resident, stated he agrees the Jail space is needed but the other things are not needed at this time that are included in the three options. Mr. Stahl stated there have already been too many increases on the tax payers.

Charlie Canary, County Council, stated there is no money in the budget for this project. Mr. Canary stated the County is facing at least 10% cuts across the board when it comes to budget hearings in August.

Mr. Price closed the public comments.

Ron West, County Council, stated he would like to see more options/plans. Mr. West stated more options are needed because the County may not be able to do any of the three plans presented due to budget shortfalls. Josh McCarty, County Council, stated he agrees with Mr. West.

Anita Knowles, County Council, stated she understands the budget issues the County is facing but she also sees the need of the expansion to the Jail.

The Council members discussed the cost of running and staffing the new Jail.

After further discussion between the Commissioners and the Council, it was decided to appoint a Jail Committee Study to look further into the project and bring more options to the table. The County Council will appoint three members of the Council to the committee and the Commissioners will appoint one Commissioner to the committee. Brian Walker, County Council, stated the Judges and Prosecutors need to be involved in this committee as well.

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin stated he would like to see this committee to continue to work on this project now and not wait a couple of months.

Adjournment: Tom Kite made a motion to adjourn. Troy DeHart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Special Joint Meeting- Commissioners and Council- June 29, 2009

County Commissioner

County Commissioner

County Commissioner

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Attest:

Johnson County Auditor