

Grant County Council and Grant County Commissioners
Special Joint Session
June 26, 2019

The Grant County Council and the Grant County Commissioners met in a Special Joint Session on Wednesday June 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Call to order

Council President Shane Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Prayer

Commissioner Bardsley let in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Roorbach let the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Mark Leming, Frank Hix and Mike Conner, Mike Roorbach, Mike Scott and Jonathan Perez. Also present were Commissioners Mike Burton, Ron Mowery, and Mark Bardsley, Council Attorney Phil Stevenson, Auditor Jim McWhirt, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

New Business

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

A. Presentation of Facility Usage Options and Associated Financial Implications:

Commissioner Mike Burton expressed that roughly 2 ½ years ago Sheriff Reggie Nevels was looking for a way to address the crowded Grant County jail. One thing he looked at is moving the adult female prisoners over to the justice center, creating more room in our Grant County jail. The Commissioners are the executive and legislative and the Council are the fiscal body and address the financial issues. Both the Commissioners and Council need to be supporting of whatever change there is moving forward. The general consensus is that it is time to move forward to whatever change that may be. With that being said I will turn it over to Sheriff Reggie Nevels to make is presentation and later we will hear from Superior Court II Judge Dana Kenworthy, and there may be others who will want to address this body and there may be some questions.

Sheriff Reggie Nevels introduced his executive staff...Captain Randy Albertson, Captain Ed Beaty, and Captain Todd Fleece. The Sheriff's department took over the operation of the juvenile detention center in October of 1995. The new detention center was to house 46 juvenile detainees, however it has been underutilized since day one. Since taking office in 2015 the Grant County jail has been over capacity. My staff and I came up with a thought, what if we could house the adult females at the juvenile detention center. This is when we formed a committee, which consisted of the Judges, Council members, the Commissioners, Probation department, Public Defenders etc...We had several meetings and came up with three (3) options...Option one-house female adults only with a renovation cost of 137,900, option two-house adult females with eight (8) juveniles with a renovation cost of 170,500 or option three-house adult females with fourteen (14) juveniles with a renovation cost of 196,840. We go bids and had state jail inspectors, architect and others come in to see what would be possible. During this time we were close to being staffed. The best option for the Sheriff's department is option one. I repeat since we are not fully staffed now option one is best since we are understaffed. With option one we can reduce staff by 3-4 officers. However with option 2 & 3 this will require an additional staff of 3. Therefore since we are short on staff, our recommendation is option one. Within the last 30 days our jail population has declined. We went from over 300 to 275 inmates. Out of our current 275 inmates, 43 consist of females. There is a fourth option where we just let it stay, since our numbers are declining, or when we do get fully staffed we can revisit this matter.

Commissioner Mike Burton asked Sheriff Nevels who said the additional staff is needed if we have the 8 or 14 additional beds. Sheriff Nevels explained there would be 2 facilities there in

one building. We have to keep the juveniles and adults separated. If we have 8 or 14 over there you have to have at least a male and a female there on duty at all times for the juvenile detention center. When they have schooling we have to have additional jailers to take them upstairs, we can't leave downstairs unoccupied. That is why we need at least 3, only on the juvenile side. If we did not have the additional staff it would basically be an unattended jail. Council President Middlesworth asked Sheriff Nevels under your recommendation of option one would there be any revenue or offset of cost of out of county females. Sheriff Nevels explained since we have 46 bed there at this present time, we would double that and make it 92 beds. There is a major demand for housing not only female but male inmates as well. The jails are always looking for extra beds in other counties. We can house out of county prisoners at a rate of \$55.00 per day.

After further discussion Superior Court II Judge Dana Kenworthy was given a chance to speak.

Judge Kenworthy presented a packet of information to Council members and the Commissioners. Judge Kenworthy had the packet broken down as follows:

Tab 1-Sources of Information

Tab 2 Grant County Judges PowerPoint Presentation

Tab 3-Cost Impacts Summary

IDOC Cost Reimbursement Policy letter dated 6-12-19

Tab 4-Letter from Family Services Society president/CEO Lisa Dominisee and Board chair Dianne Smith dated 6-20-19

Letter from Grant County Department of Child Services Director Jeremy Soultz dated 6-24-19.

Letter from Court appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Executive Director Leslie Hendricks dated 6-21-19.

Email from Grant County Managing Public Defender Bruce Elliott dated 6-24-19.

Tab 5-Letter from Judges to Sheriff and Committee dated 6-19-17.

Committee emails dated 4-11-17 to 6-19-17.

Letter from Judges to Sheriff, Council & Commissioners dated 10-3-18.

Letter from Judges to Commissioners dated 5-24-19.

Tab 6-Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act of 2018 223(a) (11)

Tab 7-The Dickinson Juvenile Justice Center Juvenile Detention Fact –Finding committee report dated 6-30-16.

Judge Kenworthy started her power-point presentation. Judge Kenworthy expressed knowing Sheriff Nevels indicated option one (1) works best for the Sheriff's department, option three (3) is best for our county fiscally and it is best for our kids, which is most important. Fourteen (14) beds would be at a minimal cost to renovate, does not take any more staff than eight (8) beds, and will meet the needs as well as any needs in the future. Judge Mark Spitzer spoke in favor of Judge Kenworthy's option. Brad Lindsay, Marion Community Schools Superintendent spoke about educating the juvenile. Superintendent Lindsay expressed the school is on board with doing what needs to be done to educate the juvenile. Joe Lewis spoke about staffing and alternative solutions and cost. David Payne spoke about juvenile out of county.

After further discussions Council President Middlesworth expressed there would be no action taken this evening, we have some more investigation work to do, a decision will come at a later date.

Council President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.