

Meeting Minutes

Joint Meeting

County Board of Supervisors and City Council

February 22, 2006, 5:00 P.M.

Portage County Courthouse Annex, 1462 Strong's Avenue

Mayor Gary W. Wescott and County Chairman O. Phillip Idsvoog, presiding. Roll Call:

Present: Ald. Sevenich, Hanson, Wiza, Robinson, Barr, Trzebiatowski, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore

Excused: Walther

Also Present: Jerry Borski, Ron Borski, Bob Brilowski, Jim Clark, Jeanne Dodge, Leif Ericson, Taniya Fatticci, Marion Bud Flood, Charles Gussel, Jesse Higgins, Phillip Idsvoog, Don Jankowski, James Krems, Lonnie Krowold, David Medin, Tony Patton, William Peyerson, Richard Purcell, John Rendall, Kevin Ruehl, Robert Steinke, Dwight Stevens, Douglas Warner, James Zdroik, William Zimdars.

3. Presentation and discussion on the Justice Center project by Mark Goldman Associates.

Don Jankowski, Chair of the Space and Property Committee, gave a brief introduction of what was to be discussed at this meeting and advised that due to the time constraints no questions would be taken; there would be an open house on February 23, 2006 from 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. at the Court House to talk about the issues at hand dealing with the project.

On March 28, 2006, the Justice Center Coalition will meet at 4:00 P.M. in conference room #5 with the goal of having the group go through the matrix the consultants put together.

Mark Goldman briefly reviewed work done up until this point. He said the next step was to look at sites and get better cost estimates.

Len Wilke, Mead and Hunt, spoke about the specifics including space needs up until 2035 and areas that could be shared between the Sheriff's and the Stevens Point Police Departments. He stated that total space needs for separate departments are 56,056 sq. feet and co-located needs are 39,482, a savings of over 16,000. He then went on to discuss benefits of co-location including improved public safety elimination of duplicate costly space etc.

Judge Finn spoke about current intervention practices underway in the County. He talked about creating a case management group to look at risk assessment for people who are likely to be in the County jail before or after sentencing. He said using interventions has an impact on the number of jail beds needed. His committee is looking at how current interventions can be enhanced and what new programs are possible. They are also looking at how to work with other groups who are doing similar things like the Justice Center.

Judge Fin concluded saying ultimately the County Board and the City Council will decide on interventions because it is a public policy decision.

Mark Goldman then spoke about the importance of alternatives to incarceration and their impact on staff levels, the overall costs, etc. He said that case managers would match the person's needs with the appropriate services. If the person does not follow through they can always be sent back to jail. He recommended that a group of people continue to look at best practices for interventions, enhance Portage County's existing programs, and creating new ones.

In reviewing statistics on those individuals in jail, they found that substance abuse was prevalent and that many inmates had mental health issues. Statistics also illustrated that probation violators and those that did not pay their fines made up a significant portion of the population.

He said that Huber makes up 40 percent of the inmates and suggested that we should look at options such as having the last a third of a Huber sentence on electronic monitoring.

He also recommended creating a drug/alcohol/mental health court and co-locating the Portage House and community based intervention together in a separate building apart from the Justice Center.

In response to the public's reaction to the cost of the Justice Center he spoke about reductions through interventions. He stated that life-cycle cost savings from interventions would be over \$13.1 million. If the Board and Council are not in favor of interventions, then the jail needs to be 25 percent bigger.

Meeting Adjourned 6:38 P.M.

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