

Owen County Board of Commissioners / Owen County Council

Minutes - Special Meeting-Jail Facility April 22, 2024 @6:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Board Members present:

Commissioners: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe

Council Members: Polly Chesser, Anton Neff, Amy Casebeer, Steve Carrell, Nick Robertson, Andy Wood Absent: Verl Keith

County Attorney: Dana Kerr

Auditors Office: Nicole Vandermoere

Burton and Chesser announced no decisions have been made to raise taxes, all options are being explored for the proposed new jail project. Discussion included the possibility of grant funds based on a feasibility schedule, consulting fees, work site prep, architectural, financial consultants. There is currently an amount of 2.3 million in the jail facility fund. There is also a financing option through USDA Neff including a loan cost calculator with a proposed rate of 3.75% quoted rate was 3.5% the rates could be less at the time we get to the point to decide. Dialogue continued on the various options.

Chris Saylor with Elevatus Architecture and Dan Zuerner with Garmong Construction Services talked about different county designs, locations, build size and costs. These figures did not include real estate.

Sheriff White talked about the elements he would like to see in the new jail facility which includes 120/125 beds, some office space, a training facility, meeting room and look at future expansion, need to think about this so the county is not in the situation they are now. Unable to expand the current jail due to various reasons location, flood plain etc.

Exploring another option, Sheriff White was contacted by Monroe County. They are in the process of doing a feasibility study for a new jail and want to know if officials are interested in doing a regional jail, discussion continued. Motion was made by Neff to sign the letter from Monroe County to at least open the dialog for a regional jail application seconded by Burton, motion carried 9-0.

Conversation continues about the real estate location, costs, future floodplain maps and insurance.

A committee was established to meet and report back periodically members include Sheriff White, Bill Snodgrass, Joel Lowe, Polly Chesser, Steve Carrell and Sheila Reeves volunteered to serve.

The floor was opened to public comment and several citizens gave their feedback towards the project.

Burton made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Carrell 9-0