



Public Safety Facility Needs and Assessment Committee

60 Central Avenue, Room 316
Cortland, NY 13045

<http://www.cortland-co.org>

Committee

~ Agenda ~

Thursday, November 30, 2017

10:00 AM

Room 304

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Legislative District 1 John R Troy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legislative District 8 Donnell Boyden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 14 Sandra Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 15 George Wagner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 6 Mary Ann Discenza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 12 Joseph Steinhoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 17 Charles Sudbrink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
District 11 Christopher Newell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Minutes Approval

Public Safety Facility Needs and Assessment Committee - Committee - Nov 9, 2017 11:30 AM

Discussion Items

1. Phase II - Design

Adjournment



Public Safety Facility Needs and Assessment Committee

60 Central Avenue, Room 316
Cortland, NY 13045
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

Committee

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, November 9, 2017

11:30 AM

Room 304

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John R Troy	Legislative District 1	Present	
Donnell Boyden	Legislative District 8	Present	
Sandra Price	District 14	Present	
George Wagner	District 15	Present	
Mary Ann Discenza	District 6	Present	
Joseph Steinhoff	District 12	Excused	
Charles Sudbrink	District 17	Present	
Christopher Newell	District 11	Present	
Chuck Miller	Buildings and Grounds	Present	
Karen Howe	County Attorney	Present	
Mark Helms	Sheriff	Present	
Budd Rigg	Undersheriff	Present	
Mark Bollin	PIKE	Present	
David Lay	SMRT	Present	
Michael Barylski	Legislator Elect	Present	
Paul Heider	Legislator Elect	Present	
Ron VanDee	Legislator Elect	Present	
Nick Graziano	Cortland Standard	Present	
Karen Fuller	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Richard Bushnell	District 4	Present	

Minutes Approval

- Public Safety Facility Needs and Assessment Committee - Committee - Oct 24, 2017 11:30 AM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John R Troy, Legislative District 1
SECONDER:	Sandra Price, District 14
AYES:	Troy, Boyden, Price, Wagner, Discenza, Sudbrink, Newell
EXCUSED:	Joseph Steinhoff

Discussion Items

- Discussion of Phase II Completion

Ms. Price said the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee authorized the continuation of Phase 2 and asked if they had the authority to do so or if that decision should have come from the full Legislature. Mr. Troy said in June this committee voted to put the project on hold and somehow that happened, even though this is a policy committee; he does not believe it should have been stopped. Ms. Price said she believes the County is wasting money on a project that it cannot afford and it should not be supported.

Mr. Bushnell said it is important to complete Phase II to bring forward definitive information, at which time the discussion on proceeding to Phase III would take place. There are five options to be

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Nov 9, 2017 11:30 AM (Minutes Approval)

considered and it needs to happen to determine square footage and the costs. Mr. Sudbrink said the committee does not have the authority to stop until it is known what design would be doing. Mr. Bushnell said it is important to know how big the jail should be. He spoke of previous discussions and how the costs go up daily; in addition the letter from the State indicates the need to move forward. He noted a resolution was adopted approving Phase II.

Ms. Sudbrink spoke of his working with construction materials and disagrees that inflation has gone up 40 percent in two years as was told to the committee. He does not think that waiting a few years would result in that significant an increase.

Ms. Price spoke of the potential to find other ways to deal with the jail population through alternatives to incarceration programs and other means as a way to counteract the letter from the State and asked if anything is being done. Mr. Boyden said Mental Health and Health Departments are working with Ms. Cutia on the topic and there have been numerous meeting. Ms. Discenza spoke of her being on the committee that would be meeting next week to discuss the topic further. She said various services are being reviewed as well as discussing how to roll them out. In addition the District Attorney is working on a program that will help with recidivism. Ms. Discenza said there are many discussions and options and that the issue is to expand them.

Mr. Troy said there are currently 550 people on probation and that the County is doing a lot of things for alternatives to incarceration, but the public is not aware of them.

Mr. Sudbrink spoke of moving forward with Phase II and that some Legislators believe it is a pressure tactic when speaking of the State to spend the money. He said maybe once Phase II is done it would be possible to figure out financing.

Mr. Boyden said all options need to be looked at and determine how not to impact taxpayers; there are many things to be reviewed.

Mr. Bushnell said the Budget and Finance Committee would determine how to cover expenses for Phase III. He said this committee is to move through Phase II for design and then a determination of what to do next would happen.

Ms. Howe said she forwarded several questions in advance to SMRT who will provide a brief presentation.

Mr. Lay provided a review of the various designs for the jail which would have an approximate cost a shown:

1. All-inclusive design - \$54,500,000
2. No future POD included - \$47,350,000
3. No Emergency Dispatch - \$46,300,000
4. Emergency Dispatch included; No Sheriff - \$43,000,000
5. No Sheriff or Dispatch - \$41,900,000

The Committee was also informed that inflation would affect the cost of a jail and the estimates are “soft figures”. It was noted that to reduce costs in various designs reductions of some areas were made and the square footage for each option and population per POD was given. It was also noted there are multi-purpose areas for educational purposes within the design. The Committee was also provided with an explanation of how the Sally Port and intake areas are utilized when inmates are transported to the facility as well as the potential for off-site arraignments.

At this time Ms. Howe asked Sheriff Helms to provide input on what is needed and how the various units in his departments work together.

Sheriff Helms said he would be reviewing plans again and noted he is not making any design decisions but providing input due to knowledge of operations. He believes the correct number of inmates should be 200 and he would recommend that rather than potentially having the same thing as before occur

when the number was decreased to meet what was affordable. He expressed the desire to be able to sit with those designing the construction of the jail and see if there are ways to improve it.

Ms. Discenza inquired if the 200 cells were based on a trend. Sheriff Helms said Undersheriff Rigg determined a formula that took into account the current situation that indicated a fifteen year projection of 232 beds. He would rather have another POD put on and agrees to see what the differences are with other counties. He does not want to make a poor decision that will affect the county again in 25 years. Undersheriff Rigg said the formula does show a higher figure than other counties; it is a standard formula that includes what can be done to reduce the numbers. Ms. Howe asked to have Sheriff Helms work with the consultants to see what could be done.

Mr. Sudbrink expressed his belief that time was wasted and that the financing should have been determined first.

Mr. Troy suggested meeting again prior to the next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting on December 7th. It was suggested to hold a meeting on November 30th.

At this time a period of questions were made by Legislators elect.

In response to Mr. Barylski's question on whether the alternatives to incarceration efforts would affect the number of inmates Undersheriff Rigg said it is a complicated question. He said for many years there has been an effort to coordinate services; over fifty partners meet regularly to address issues with a goal of reducing inmate population and determine areas of improvement. There are still three areas that need to be worked on that are continuing to be worked on. Undersheriff Rigg said two years ago there was not anyone able to prescribe medications to assist getting off meth. Another area is the lack of a tracking mechanism to follow an individual so that there is not a duplication of resources being utilized. Ms. Discenza said the groups are trying to reconcile what is really needed. Undersheriff Rigg said the volume is growing so quickly it is hard to determine what should be done.

Mr. Barylski asked about board-out expenses and whether the potential savings would be used to offset the cost of a new jail. Undersheriff Rigg said the county expends approximately \$392,000 in board-out cost and an additional \$23,000 for the transportation costs associated with it. Mr. Barylski then asked about the comparison of staffing expense between current and if a new jail were built. Undersheriff Rigg said salaries would not change; the Commission of Corrections would look at the final design and determine if there is a need for additional staffing. The current jail is inefficient with the need to have more staff for the number of inmates than the new facility would require.

Mr. Barylski asked about the ancillary rooms and education that could help reduce recidivism. Undersheriff Rigg said this has not been fully reviewed until it is known what will be happening.

Mr. Heider asked if a specific budget were set if the 148 beds could be built; he particularly noted \$28 million as a budget. Mr. Lay said SMRT is not selling the County a building, the County would build it. Whatever the final design is would require going out to bid; ultimately it would be deciding the quantity of cells and quality of finished product. The Committee heard of a jail in Arizona that was built like a metal warehouse with sensors around it; it could be done but it would be up to the municipality and Department of Corrections to do it. Mr. Lay said jails are expensive and currently costs in excess of \$400/sq. ft.; he does not think other options could be done in a less expensive manner.

Mr. Barylski said the County would determine the number of beds and the Department of Corrections would tell what other things are necessary. The only way to reduce cost is reducing the square footage but the Department of Corrections would not approve. The County would have to come up with the best design it can to operate efficiently. It was noted pre-cast concrete helped to reduce costs. A brief discussion of the cost of materials and escalation took place and it was noted that once a design is made the bidding for the work would also play a role in cost.

Ms. Howe was excused at this time.

Mr. Troy spoke of the need to have the best estimate of cost, which ultimately could come in higher or lower than the estimates. He said it cannot be determined until the completion of Phase II.

Mr. Barylski believes the more the design advances the better the cost estimates would be.

At this time it was decided to ask Sheriff Helms to work with SMRT to review the designs and provide input. The Committee chose to meet again on November 30th at 10:00.

Mr. Bushnell expressed disappointment that the Committee was not able to work together to be further along and hoped that as it continues in 2018 it would be better.

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.