

Vermillion County Commissioners and Council

Joint Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to order. The Council and Commissioners convened in a joint meeting on November 13, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call. Members of the Council present were Ashley James, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, President Jill Wesch, Mike Carty, Bob Spence and Council Attorney Don Darnell. Brent Bush was absent. Members of the Commissioners present were President Tim Wilson and Harry Crossley. Tim Yocum was absent. Also present was Auditor Amy Tolbert and First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson.
- IV. Jail Expansion/Renovation. Sanjay Patel from RQAW Architecture gave a presentation on the jail expansion, renovation, or replacement. Patel said that the jail needs to be expanded to 150 beds to allow for both increased inmate populations and classification needs, separating male and female inmates, and violent and nonviolent inmates. He said the current linear cell block design is typical of older jails, but not as efficient as the designs that are being done now. He said the current rated capacity is 74, holding is limited to 12 total, there is only one isolation cell block and inability to classify is a significant issue. He also stated that there are issues in the kitchen and laundry area and that the sally port cannot accommodate an ambulance or a Department of Correction transport van.
Patel proposed an addition to the jail on the south-west side that could accommodate a pod-style cell system for up to 256 inmates. He said the shell of this structure could be built, and the number of cells needed now could be constructed, and additional cell blocks installed later, since the cells are pre-constructed and only need to be delivered and installed into the space of the facility. He explained that the pod-style structure, in which a central control room is surrounded by two levels of cells, are arranged to allow the officer in the control room to have a direct view into all of the cells. This design also allows maintenance access from the outside of the cells, between the cell wall and the exterior wall, so that cells do not have to be opened for maintenance. This design also incorporates showers and toilets in each cell. Patel said a new larger sally port would be constructed and they would expand the administrative area. He said the old cell blocks would be renovated for expanded kitchen and laundry facilities.
There was some discussion on the number of additional staff that would be needed, and Patel said a staff analysis could be conducted. He said depending on how the jail is managed, it could be from 5 to 10.
Derek Hughes asked about the average population at the jail, and Sheriff Mike Phelps said it has been 80 to 90. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman said he did not believe it had been that high during his tenure, except for seasonal averages. Hughes asked how many of those housed at the jail are Vermillion County inmates, and Phelps said they all are. Phelps said a lot of people seem to think we want this. He said there are some things that will be good for us, but nobody wants to go through this process. Phelps said were here because he kept getting written up by the state. He said he didn't think they are going to get away with doing nothing, and we can't put them all back on the street.
Patel said the projected cost of renovating the existing jail is 17.9 to 19.8 million and the projected cost of building a new jail is 22.9 to 25.7 million. Patel said their recommendation is to renovate the existing building.
- V. Adjourn. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Mike Carty to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

AYE

NAY

Jill Wesch, President

Mike Carty, Vice President

Brent Bush

Ashley James

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Bob Spence

ATTEST:

Amy Tolbert, Auditor

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: _____
Amy Tolbert, Auditor