

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 27, 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Benton County Jail Committee conducted an open meeting at 7:00 P. M., Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at the Warsaw/Lincoln Ambulance Building in Warsaw. The meeting site was handicapped accessible.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by committee chairman Mark Richerson. Mr. Richerson gave required basic rules and guidelines for the conduct of the meeting and cited the mission of the committee, which is to 1) assess the need for a new Benton County Jail, 2) research all available options, and 3) to make an informed recommendation to the Benton County Commission.

The following committee members were present: Robert Berkoff, Mark Richerson, Greg Wenberg, Kathy Bruner, Sharon Johnson, Rod Brethower, Jeff Canfield, and Cassie Sanders. Committee members Bob Follmer, Tracey Spry, James Theisen, and Jason Shackles were not present.

In addition, Benton County Presiding Commissioner Michelle McLellan-Kreisler, North Side Commissioner Jim Hansen, South Side Commissioner Dale Estes, Jr, and Benton County Sheriff Eric Knox were present. There were no members of the public present.

1. Minutes of the June 15, 2017, meeting was made available. It was noted that information in Item 6 which stated the next meeting would be in Lincoln is now outdated, but that was the intention at the time of the previous meeting/minutes. Cassie Sanders made the motion, seconded by Sharon Johnson, to accept the minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote.
2. Mr. Shawn Harding and Mr. Adam Kuehl of HMN ARCHITECTS, Inc., Overland Park, KS, presented remarks as pertains to their proposals upon being selected by the Benton County Commission for the design and construction of the jail facility. Committee and Commission members asked various questions to clarify aspects of those proposals, to include assistance with funding, ballot language, site location, and inmate capacity of the proposed jail.
3. Copies of the Administrative Report and Recommendations prepared by the Jail Project Committee for the Benton County Commission were distributed. Chairman Mark Richerson reviewed the report item by item. Discussion:
 1. Possible inclusion of a recommendation to include an “arraignment/court room with judge’s chambers”. This would preclude the transportation of inmates across town and their movement through the halls of the County Court House for minor cases, court appearances, bond hearings, etc.
 2. Mr. Bob Berkoff recommended that a narrative/minutes of all meetings of the Jail Committee be included as addendum(s) to keep all proceedings and recommendations completely transparent to the citizens of Benton County and to justify the recommendations of the committee.

3. Mr. Richerson will consider these additional recommendations and consult committee members for final approval of the Jail Committee Report.

4. Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Berkoff, and seconded by Sharon Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P. M.