

Hancock County Commissioners and Council Joint Meeting

April 25, 2018

The County Commissioners and the Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the meeting room at the jail in Greenfield, Indiana, on the 25th day of April 2018 at the hour of 6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Brad Armstrong, Marc Huber and John Jessup were in attendance. Councilmembers William Bolander, James Shelby, Debra Bledsoe, Kent Fisk, Jeannine Gray and Randy Sorrell were also in attendance. Martha Vail was absent.

Also attending, County Attorney Ray Richardson, Auditor Robin Lowder, and Deputy Auditor Linda Jeter.

Minutes

Commissioner President Armstrong and Council President Bolander called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pete Peterson, a representative from RQAW Architecture introduced Sanjay Patel from RQAW who presented an updated schematic design for the Hancock County Justice Facilities. Mr. Patel explained he and his firm have been working with County leaders to design new justice facilities due to the increasing need for more space in the jail. Based on a geotechnical survey of the originally proposed site for the new facility between the current jail at 123 E. Main St. and the County Community Corrections Building was determined to be unsuitable to build on. The water level was too high and the soil was unsuitable to allow for a basement. Consequently RQAW has been working on a new proposal, which will put the entire project at \$55 million. The Commissioners had hoped that after further design and planning, the project could be completed at a less expensive price.

Mr. Patel explained that building this new jail will help to alleviate overcrowding in the current jail and provide more mental health services to inmates. The existing justice facilities will also need to be renovated. He presented a proposal to construct the new jail on a site just south of the current facility at the corner of Meek and South streets, east of the courthouse annex. Five houses currently on this site would need to be purchased and demolished in order for construction to begin. This alternative site has been determined to be a good option which meets the county's needs.

Mr. Patel presented drawings of the interior and exterior of the new Jail as well as drawings of the renovations of the existing Criminal Justice Facilities. The Probation Department, currently in the courthouse, would move into the basement of the existing jail. Hancock County Community Corrections would move into the inmate housing side of the current jail, allowing the department

to expand in order to house up to 50 more individuals. The Prosecutor’s Office, which is now in the first floor of the Courthouse would move to the current Community Corrections Building. This move will allow for a fourth court in the Courthouse as needed in the future.

Mr. Patel confirmed that the new Jail would accommodate up to 438 inmates whereas the current jail only accommodates 200. The front of the new building will be two stories in height and have space for the Sheriff’s Department Administrative Offices, Booking and Medical facilities. The rear of the building would stand four stories tall and would consist entirely of inmate housing. The lower-level pod would be designed for inmates in recovery, with meeting areas for counselors and group sessions. The upper-level pod would house the maximum security inmates. The basement of the new jail would include the kitchen, laundry and various storage. The building could be structured to add a third pod, increasing jail capacity if needed in the future.

Mr. Patel added that these justice facility designs are still in the planning stages and can be changed. They are hoping to have final plans in the next few weeks. The Commissioners and Council Members were agreeable and supportive of this revised RQAW judicial proposal.

Councilman Shelby made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Fisk. Motion carried 6-0.

The Commissioners did not adjourn their meeting.

Approved this day: April 25, 2018

Commissioners

AYE

NAY

Council Members

AYE

NAY

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor