



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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Joint Meeting of Building & Grounds Committee
And Judiciary & Law Committee Minutes
Monday, January 31, 2005
6:30 p.m.
Kenosha County Administration Building
Finance Committee Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Building and Grounds Chairman Molinaro at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Supervisors present from the Building and Grounds Committee were Mark Molinaro, Judy Rossow and Leonard Johnson. Doug Noble arrived at 7:15. Supervisors present from the Judiciary and Law Committee were Jim Huff, Brenda Carey-Mielke and William Michel. Terry Rose arrived at 7:15 p.m.

3. Chairman or Committee Member Comments

Director Patrie commented on replacing the ceiling in Judge Schroeder's courtroom. A contract is expected to be signed before this Friday to have it replaced.

Chairman Molinaro stated he would like information on video arraignment conferencing. Director Patrie commented that all courtrooms except Judge Schroeder's courtroom have the wiring capability. Chairman Molinaro wants information on the details how it would benefit the county taxpayer.

4. Citizen Comments

There were none.

5. Status report on Detention Center Remodeling Project

Director Patrie reported plans and specs are ready to go to bid using Federal Revenue dollars. This is on hold pending a report from the chief deputy regarding federal inmate population. That report is expected before the end of February.

6. Status report on Public Safety Building remodel to accommodate wireless 911 et al

Director Patrie stated approximately \$1.5 million was approved in the 2005 budget for this along with remodeling certain sections of the first and second floors. Director Patrie referred to an aerial photograph of the Safety Building area and the location of the future parking structure. He stated a county board supervisor questioned if we did not go ahead with the 911 plan for \$1.5 million and just build an addition, would that give us enough square footage so we would not have to revisit 911 in three years. The answer is no. Further discussion was held on what buildings we do own in the area. Director Patrie stated after the parking structure is built there would still be congestion downtown. We need between 7,500 – 10,000 square feet to accommodate the sheriff's squad vehicles, 911 accommodations with back-up system downtown and emergency government offices. This would solve the deficiencies. The current 911 dispatch room is very congested and with future 911 cell phone mapping it is expected to get worse. A consultant who studied the proposed remodeling project was asked how long it would meet our needs and the best guess estimate is three to five years. This is because technology changes so fast. Further discussion was held if using the \$1.5 million for remodeling is the best use of the funds. We already own the land at the Kenosha County Center, the utilities are to the site, and we can do slab on grade construction. Director Patrie stated the Director of Joint Services was asked if this plan came back to these two committees on a fast track and to the County Board with exact costs if she could struggle on a temporary basis between what currently exists downtown and at the KCC and the reply was yes. Supervisor Michel questioned what it would cost for an addition to the Kenosha County Center. Director Patrie replied he needs the approval of the committees to go ahead with the building cost estimates.

Supervisor Molinaro commented we might have to spend \$1.5 million in the next few years if it is necessary to get us where we need to be quicker rather than doing unnecessary studies. He also questioned if the former Unemployment Compensation building that is located downtown could be used. Director Patrie stated it has low load-bearing capacity as well as other negative aspects. It would have to be completely rebuilt. Director Patrie stated he will have a plan with a price tag and estimated construction schedule at mid-March or earlier. Supervisor Michel questioned if KCC will have an addition or stand alone building. Director Patrie stated 911 needs a secure facility so it would have to be a stand alone building near the existing building with security cameras and fencing. Supervisor Johnson stated the original intention for the KCC was to have a sheriff's substation located there eventually. Director Patrie stated that 12 feet from the north end of the KCC next to the Planning and Development offices there are gas, electric, water and wastewater return utilities. This was planned for eventual future development.

Supervisor Huff wanted to make everyone aware that our Emergency Government office received a Homeland Security grant to purchase ten radio consoles. One of the conditions of the grant is they need to be hooked up before April of this year. It may be possible they may be installed in the existing 911 center. Supervisor Michel questioned if we will receive revenue from taxes that cell phone users are charged. Supervisor Huff replied this surcharge is applied differently in Illinois than Wisconsin. The five-cent tax that we have is applied solely for 911 equipment and upgrades in the community. It does not pay for infrastructure or employees. Our legislators chose not to do this. Individual counties have this

responsibility of another unfunded mandate. Supervisor Carey-Mielke commented we need to not make the same building mistakes again by being penny wise and pound-foolish. We need to make a conscientious effort to build correctly.

Chairman Molinaro proceeded to summarize on the impact of the \$1.5 million remodeling of the 911 system and whether or not it was a good, well-thought out solution for our problems. He stated that Supervisor Huff and himself expressed their concerns at the budget hearings to perhaps build an addition to the Public Safety Building and investigate all options. A group of individuals consisting of Director Patrie, his staff, Sue Marcinkus, Kenosha Chief of Police, Ben Schliesman looked at all the shortcomings and the consensus was that the KCC site should be revisited for the 911 system. He reiterated that the consultant stated that at best it would be a three to five year solution. We need to make the 911 system safe for everyone. Supervisor Rose stated that the consultant's report that was presented tonight was never discussed at last year's finance or county board meetings. He questioned if the study was done after the county board adopted the budget. Supervisor Huff stated Bill Henry's report was not completed until shortly after the budget process was completed. Supervisor Rose stated the county board should have been informed that this study was being done during the budget hearings. Director Patrie stated Joint Services hired the consultant. Supervisor Rose replied that someone should have communicated this fact to the county board and the amount should not have been included in the budget. He is appalled by this fact and stated it is not good planning

Supervisor Michel questioned if we have a larger building will we hire more employees. Supervisor Huff believes Joint Services will eventually have to hire another dispatcher. He also reiterated that the Chief of Police is changing shift hours tomorrow that results in an overlap of shifts between 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. There is the possibility that one dispatcher could be controlling thirty squads at one time. The national average is eighteen. The city will be split in half, perhaps at either 60th Street or 39th Avenue.

7. Other matters that may be brought before the Committees

Supervisor Noble commented on a list of names that was recently published where the Circuit Court is holding money for individuals and he questioned how this list is compiled and the sources of the funds. Apparently citizens are not aware they have monies in these accounts and that is the reason the list is published. Supervisor Huff will speak with Gail Gentz for the details of this list.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Supervisor Rose to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Michel, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.