

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
Committee of the Whole Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 – 6:00pm
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alix, Ammons, Anderson, Berkson, Betz, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Holderfield, James, Jay, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGinty, Michaels, O'Connor, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, Schroeder, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bensyl, Moser

OTHERS PRESENT: John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Alan Reinhart (Facilities Director), Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Sheriff Walsh, Allen Jones (Sheriff's Office), Julia Reitz (State's Attorney), Susan Monte (RPC), Ranae Wolken (recording secretary), Jeremy S. (video recorder), many members of the public

Call to Order

Board Chair Weibel called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll and the following were present: Alix, Ammons, Anderson, Berkson, Betz, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Holderfield, James, Jay, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGinty, Michaels, O'Connor, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, Schroeder and Weibel.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Rosales to approve the minutes of January 10, 2012; seconded by James. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

Motion by Richards to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Carter. There is no addendum. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Participation

Brian Dolinar spoke about the jail. He said everyone currently in both jail are in maximum security in the Champaign County jail. He stated it would reduce the costs if there was a minimum security part of the jail. He also said there should be some general attention about who ends up in the jail and felt there's a number of people in the jail who don't need to be there. He said that 20% of the population was there due to traffic cases. He said the Sheriff continues to support the Secure Communities Program and holds immigrants until immigration enforcement shows up. He also said that the State's Attorney sentences to her discretion and there are heavy handed sentences and running up the population of the jail.

Julianne Panagacos said this is one of the best places to see democracy happening in this world. She thinks there are a lot of similarities in all that want to make this a better society.

She said that there is a proposal for a new jail a need hasn't been demonstrated for a new jail. She the demographics don't show growth in the community. She wants the board to think if there is a need for a new jail. She encouraged all to take a look at this. She also wondered if the proposed committee is representative of the community and in her view it is not.

Harold Scharlau said he had handed out to the caucuses a handout about a proposed round about at Olympian Drive and Lincoln Avenue. He thinks it is a waste of tax payer money in this area. He said round abouts are not made for 53 foot semis, but for smaller cars. He said the truck traffic would have to make a complete circle just to make a turn. He said it would block the entire intersection to be able to make a turn. He also said that snow removal would also be more difficult because of the wind at north Lincoln Avenue. He said he hopes the Board sees the impracticability of this and pulls the approval.

Mikhail Lynbansky said he teaches in Psychology Department and said he teaches about restorative practices. He said that one of the things he talks about is asking different groups what their idea of an ideal justice system is. He said most look the same. He said they want community that is safe and all are treated fairly. He said they want those sentenced to be sentenced fairly and when they're out to be able to do better. He asked the Board to consider the opportunity to explore the alternatives that exist.

Peter Campbell spoke on behalf of the solidarity committee of the Graduate Employees Organization in opposition to the jail expansion. He wanted to specifically address a claim made last week by some County Board member that the expansion is about poor conditions, specifically regarding the treatment of the women prisoners. He said the best way to reduce beds is to reduce the number of people locked up. He said the building condition and expanded facilities does not help with overcrowding.

Chris Evans said that everyone knows the downtown building is in disrepair, but asked how that happened. He said we all want the prisoners and officers to be safe. He said there was a failure to communicate. He spoke briefly about the passage of the 1998 Ordinance, and it said at the bottom that upon the time of payment in full, the sales tax would be repealed. He said it didn't say anything about the clock tower and courthouse tuck pointing and building a \$20 million jail now. He said the quarter cent sales tax should be brought back to the voters.

Rebecca Ginsberg said she is disturbed by the assumption that jails reduce crime. She said that incarcerating people is a relatively new approach in the western world. She said the main problem with incarceration is that it creates social and economic costs to families. She felt a study should include those costs.

Dee Fairchild Ruggles wanted to address the process that is flawed. She said that public safety is not a matter of just locking people up. She said a large number of people in the jails have mental issues and said was to have programs in the community to reduce those numbers. She said states are increasingly closing prisons. To summarize, she urged the Board to consider the racial makeup of the committee and look at how the public safety funds are spent.

Kelly Dillard was here to speak about the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance on this evening's agenda. He said the amendment was being made will directly affect his property and only his property. He said it is far reaching to many businesses and it only regulates non-farm equipment. He said there are several comments that are misleading. He then pointed out some of the proposed amendments that are misleading.

Aaron Ammons addressed the jail issue and he said the thought of selling bed space was reminiscent about long ago conversations regarding long distance phone calls at the jail. He said that selling space was equivalent to selling black people. He said the voters want to know why the Board is pushing forward before finding out how much correcting the old building was.

Patsy Howell said that economically this issue is insane with schools and counties going broke. She said voters wouldn't be okay with any project being pushed through. She commented on conditions that female inmates live in and said they were inhumane conditions. She felt the committee that was put together was a conflict of interest as to those who were selected to serve on it. She said those on the committee's livelihood depends on the justice system and that is a conflict. She said all communities are interested in this issue.

Ken Salo said he is more focused on issue of affordable public housing. He said it appears by standards that affordable housing for people of color is jail. He said that some of the housing sections have been revitalized.

Julie Watkins spoke in opposition of new jail expansion. She said, as a taxpayer, she is disturbed about spending money this way. She's rather the money was spent to help people. She said we're at a point where one if every hundred is in jail and it should not be that way. There should be a referendum for the people to vote on this.

Durl Kruse said he knows the County Board members want to do the right thing, but the jail space improvement project is lacking clarity and substance on a number of points. He said it is not thorough and time driven. He said the process does not incorporate an integrated approach that can balance the merits of construction with the merits of programs. He said the public wants assurances for public input in the various stages of the project.

Sue Keller said she realizes this is not the right place, but wanted to offer that National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Champaign County would be happy partner with those working on expanding the diversion and specialty court services, and also on prevention issues.

Communications

Chair Weibel directed the Board's attention to a handout for the Illinois Association of County Board Members Zone III meeting that will take place on Saturday, March 3 at the Brookens building.

Holderfield wanted to let Board Members know that the Convention and Visitors Bureau is starting in the early stages of strategic planning for the next several years. She said there will be meetings in March and welcomed any comments and feedback from Board members.

Environment & Land Use

Annual Report of Land Use and Land Resource Management Trends with Champaign County

Susan Monte provided information on the Annual Report of the Land Use and Land Resource Management Trends with Champaign County. She said this is the first of an annual series. She said it includes updates of demographic data. She noted the townships and municipalities with the greatest and least amount of changes in population. She talked about the numbers of permits issued for non-farm dwellings in the unincorporated areas of the county. She

briefly spoke of the public sanitary sewer facilities and municipal annexations. She said there is also information of the countywide residential electronics collections.

Petrie asked about information on page 4 and that she would like to some additional information provided on acres lost due to annexation. Ms. Monte said this is only data from April, 2010 and incorporates data on the decennial census. Petrie then asked if there were statistics as to what has been the proclivity of covering land and ratio to population growth. Monte said she hasn't had the time to determine this but will try to do so as time allows.

Motion by Ammons to receive and place the report on file; seconded by Quisenberry.
Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Minor Changes to Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan

Kurtz spoke briefly and wanted to empathize that there are no policy changes or changes to goals, but for minor data updates. Ms. Monte provided information about the minor changes and corrections that need to be made. She said there is also a correction about continuous urban growth around them. She said there was a correction caught with the Village of Mahomet that are already all developed tracts since the 1970's. Their sewer will be updated and failures will be improved. James thought there would be more inspections of some of these communities' systems and hoped there would be some funds made available to be able to help them.

Petrie said it didn't appear that some of the boundaries didn't seem to line up with the LRMP. Monte said that some of the municipalities have had some slight increase in their boundaries.

Motion by Carter to recommend to the full Board to accept the proposed minor changes to the Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried with one no vote.**

Direction to Zoning Administrator Regarding Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Amend Limits on Vehicles and Equipment in Rural Home Occupations

Motion by Langenheim to direct the Zoning Administrator to proceed with a public hearing for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance limits for numbers of vehicles and large equipment authorized in Rural Home Occupations; seconded by Petrie. Ammons asked Mr. Hall to speak to comments made in public participation. Mr. Hall said his office receives complaints all the time about home occupations, because they're not prepared the see businesses next door. He said there have been two or three cases of similar nature made of other businesses over the past couple of years, but they were not of the same magnitude. Michaels stated her concern being a rural homeowner and also that her husband owns a home occupation. She felt some of the standards limit people that aren't in an ag business. She said there are some too specific rules in some of the instances.

Stan James said his concern was enforcing all of the changes. He said until we can enforce what we have, nothing should be added. He said some is good, but need we still need to be careful about enforcement. Hall understands that, but the current ordinance is affecting the homeowner now. James asked about the specific complaints. He said a neighbor had a complaint about the number of vehicles. Berkson said that should be some distinction between

home occupation and commercial occupation and when does a home occupation become a commercial operation.

Motion by Holderfield to suspend the rules and asked if Mr. Dillard could be asked some questions; seconded by Michaels. **Motion to suspend the rules carried.**

Holderfield asked Mr. Dillard for any more information as to why the Board should vote to support the proposed changes. Dillard said the current ordinance regulates only 2nd division vehicles. The number of semi trucks is limited to three over 8000 lbs. and doesn't speak to anything else. Farm equipment is not included, but only heavy equipment is. Petrie said she would like to see the ZBA documentation from this case. Holderfield asked Dillard what type of business he has out of his home and how much acreage he owned. Dillard said he owned an excavation business and his plat is approximately 2.18 acres. Kurtz asked how many pieces of equipment he had. Dillard responded that he had roughly twenty pieces, not all of which are at his location, but spread out throughout the county, from trenchers to excavators. He has run his business for approximately five years. Alix asked what action is being requested. It was noted there was a motion on the floor to make changes as outlined on pages 24 and 25 of the agenda and to proceed with the public hearing at the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Weibel said that there should be something included about any of the vehicles being operational. Schroeder said there has been a lot of talk about rural home occupations. He said when an oil and chip roads maintained by township doesn't have the resources to maintain those roads, there should be some limit to some occupations. He asked if the state came out with an equalizer limit now to roads, which is 80,000 lbs. Hall confirmed that, with the exception that in the three months of the year during hot seasonal environmental conditions, when the township road commissioners deem so.

Jay asked what the purpose was to change from non-farm vehicles to motor vehicles. Hall said it should include all vehicles used in that business. Jay felt that non-farm was put more simply to him. Jay's other question why weight was such an issue deviating from 15,000 to 36,000 lbs. Hall said 8,000 lbs. was too low. Hall talked to some road commissioners and they believe that no more than 36,000 lbs. is reasonable. Jay said we're trying to put too many restrictions. Jay said if there is already 80,000 limit, then why care if a piece of equipment is 35,000. Jay suggested a change to 100,000 lbs.

Jay said that Dillard had also brought up a point about parking on his property fifty feet away from a screen. Jay said if he is screened, what difference made how far away he parks from the screen. Hall said the Ordinance is written that way, but if the committee directs him, then changes can be made. Schroeder asked if there were any comments from road commissioners about the changes. Hall said those he spoke to had no problems with the proposed changes. Schroeder felt the maximum should remain at 80,000 lbs. Maxwell said he believes this is an attempt to make it more liberal and give more flexibility to the rural home owner. He said that in order to move the larger weight they need to get a state permit.

Michaels asked about the proposed revisions regarding signage. She said it would be difficult to store multiple vehicles and trailers that have signage on them and the proposed changes are too restrictive. Kurtz asked Board members to get their suggestions to Mr. Hall and bring back next month to next COW. He will include minutes from next ZBA meeting.

Motion by James to defer to the March COW meeting; seconded by Weibel. **Motion to defer carried unanimously.**

Monthly Report

Motion by Cowart to receive and place on file; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Other Business

No other business.

Designation of Items to be placed on the Consent Agenda

Nothing to be placed on the consent agenda.

Highway & Transportation

Monthly Reports

Motion by Betz to receive and place on file the monthly report of the County Engineer; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Petition – Philo Road District

Mr. Blue stated the estimated cost of this project is \$37,000, of which half should be paid for by the County.

Motion by McGinty to recommend to the County Board approval of a Petition and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund Pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/5-501 for Philo Road District; seconded by Richards. Blue said this is for replacing a box culvert. Richards asked how often the County replaces township culverts. Blue said this happens about 15-20 times per year. The road commissioner does an analysis for the bridge, then the County engineers determine plans and estimates. He said that as long as there are funds in the line item, the project is approved. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Salary and Estimated Expenses of the County Engineer for the Period from December 1, 2011 through November 30, 2012

Motion by O'Connor to recommend to the full Board a Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Salary and Estimated Expenses of the County Engineer for the Period from December 1, 2011 through November 30, 2012; seconded by Carter. McGinty said it was clear in their caucus there seemed to be a disconnect as to why these funds are appropriated for this purpose. Blue said the County Engineer's salary is paid out of county motor fuel tax in state of Illinois. He said that federal aid dollars match that salary, as well as asking IDOT to transfer the funds salary. He said this is the procedure in all counties. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution Appropriating \$26,284.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's Share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #11-00000-00-ES

Mr. Blue said the 2011 Resolution didn't reach the Board, so last year's is being presented along with the 2012 Resolution.

Omnibus motion by McGinty to recommend to the County Board approval of the Resolutions Appropriating \$26,284.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's Share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Sections #11-00000-00-ES and #12-00000-00-ES; seconded by Holderfield. O'Connor asked how this appropriation benefited the County. Blue said it is a great benefit to the County. He said CUUATS is the metropolitan planning committee, conduct studies on the County's behalf and do any work that is outside the realm of the work the County's Highway department is not able to do. He said the work they do is amazing and do an amazing job. Weibel said that RPC is also able to obtain grants for planning and engineering. Busey confirmed for Petrie this was already in the budget. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution Appropriating \$26,284.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's Share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #12-00000-00-ES

See above.

Resolution Appropriating \$370,000 from County Bridge Funds for the Replacement of Structure #010-7048 Located on CH8 (Foosland Rd) in Brown Road District – Section #11-00981-00-BR

Mr. Blue said this project in the beginning planning stages for the summer of 2012. He said the county road is in dire need of repair. The quality index is in the 20's, on a scale of 100. No major improvements have been made to the road since 1985. He is proposing to do not only replacing the bridge, but also work to reclaim the roadway. This means actually going out on the existing roadway, put the material through a pugmill which is then laid out behind the mill and put back out through the paver and oil is added. Then they come back with three inches of hot mix asphalt and make it an 80,000 lb. road. He received from the State of Illinois a grant in the amount of \$625,000 for this project. He also said the bridge is not in shape to handle the load as well and since they will be out there already working on the road they intend to replace the bridge.

Omnibus Motion by Alix to recommend approval of a Resolution Appropriating \$370,000.00 from County Bridge Funds for the Replacement of Structure #010-7048 located on CH8 (Foosland Rd) in Brown Road District and a Resolution Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Improvement of County Highways 8 & 30; seconded by Michaels. Alix asked if the bridge already had a reduced weight limit. Blue said no, but it should be. In response to Maxwell's question, Blue stated they were in a surveying stage of work. Petrie asked at what point bridges can no longer be repaired. Blue said there were a lot of reasons a bridge can become deficient. He said in this particular case, the concrete is literally falling off the bottom of it. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Olympian Drive Update

Mr. Blue said some work has been done since last updated. He said the consultant is about 30% done with developing plans. He said the reason they haven't moved forward faster is because of the discussion about the bridge over the railroad. He said it was originally designed to be as short as possible, but the railroad has asked for additional feet to allow for another rail line. The railroad and the consultant have worked out a plan with a very minimal addition of costs. Blue had a meeting about right-of-way coming from the Atkins Group, which is being handles by the City of Champaign, the Heimberger family group negotiations are being handled by the City of Urbana, and the Squire family group negotiations are being handled by the County.

Mr. Blue said that as of this date the bid date is scheduled for June, 2013. He said there will be another public input meeting. He also spoke about the public hearing that is to be held in front of the Illinois Commerce Commission. Quisenberry asked about one of the concerns that was brought up during public participation with regard to a proposed round about on North Lincoln Avenue. Blue said the round-about came up during the public input at the public hearings. Blue said he doesn't have a lot of information on round-about, but said that modern day round-about are much more easy to navigate than previously. He said this particular round about is designed to accommodate larger equipment. An actual template was made of equipment in determining its size in the project. He said that round-about are made for safety and that accidents are much less frequent than an intersection. Blue said the next ICC meeting is March 20 and it is a pre-hearing meeting.

Petrie asked if there are only three land negotiations to which Blue said that was all that was needed for the Olympian Drive project. McGinty said he was at some of the public hearings and said that specifically those that supported the round-about were all urban and those that opposed the round-about were all rural. He said the rural people voted that way because it directly affects them. Langenheim concurred with McGinty, but asked if the round-about was set in concrete. Blue said no decision on that has been made yet. Holderfield said that round-about do not seem conducive to the rural environment. She said we need to be mindful what is going to be most effective. Berkson also agreed with McGinty, especially since this is a -T-intersection and there is no way to know how long it will remain a T-intersection. Alix said he was more comfortable with the Engineer saying this is the most effective. Blue said he would like to invite the engineers to come to the committee sometime to explain why they determined a round-about was a better alternative. Kurtz felt it was primarily the city pushing for the round-about and asked where the money was coming from for this. Blue said the County does not have a share in this project and there is no local money in it right now. Blue said he couldn't comment on the additional dollars at this meeting. Brief discussion continued.

Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Improvement of County Highways 8 & 30

See above.

Jurisdictional Transfer of Highway in Foosland

Mr. Blue said he had received a letter from the Village of Foosland President. The village has maintenance and jurisdiction of the roadway that extends through the village. They receive approximately \$2,500 each year to maintain the roadway and they have asked the County to take over the maintenance of that portion. That road is in need of repair. Blue said it is an extension of the highway they'll be working on this summer. He estimated that an additional \$80,000-\$100,000 would be required to do a mill and overlay for the road rehabilitation. He said

the County has to go through a jurisdictional process with IDOT. IDOT has concurred, but needed guidance from the County Board. A straw vote showed agreement to proceed with the process. It was noted by Dale Sedberry, Village of Foosland President, that a contractor/farmer moves a tremendous amount of heavy equipment on that road almost daily. He said the Village just doesn't have the finances to keep up this road. Blue said this was a half-mile stretch road. Petrie asked how this would affect the County highway maintenance budget. Blue said nothing much because they already drive through there to turn around when plowing the roads. He would have to come back to the Board with another resolution. It was mentioned also that this road was previously a State road, but jurisdiction changed in 1985 with the rural portion going to the County and the urban portion going to the Village, and no improvements to the road have been made since. This item to be placed on the February 23 full Board agenda.

Other Business

Cowart asked Mr. Blue to talk about some out-of-state travel conference that he attended. He attended a conference in Washington, DC on January 18 through 20 to represent the National Association of County Engineers on what is called the National Committee on the Uniform Committee on Traffic Control Devices. He had been on the committee when he came to Champaign and is now the Chair of the National Association's delegation. He sits on the Temporary Traffic Control Committee that makes suggestions to the federal highway commission. He said this committee does wonderful work and there were about 250 people in attendance in each meeting. He talked about mandates for safety, and also about the costs involved in following the mandates. He said he was proud to serve on the committee and will continue to serve on it.

Designation of Item to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

All items for consideration are to be placed on the consent agenda.

Chair Weibel declared a break at 8:50pm. The Board was back in session at 8:57pm.

County Facilities

Physical Plant FY2011 Year End Budget Report

Alan Reinhart briefly explained the reports. He said we must really take into mind the building maintenance line items in the future.

Motion by Ammons to receive and place on file both the FY2011 Year End Budget Report and the Monthly Report of the Physical Plant; seconded by Petrie. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Physical Plant Monthly Reports

See above.

202 Art Bartell Construction Monthly Report

Reinhart stated there hasn't been new action since last month.

East Campus Storm Water Management Project Update

Reinhart stated that BCA is getting documents off to utility companies and getting documents together for bidding.

Motion by Langenheim to receive and place on file the 202 Art Bartell Construction Monthly Report; seconded by Quisenberry. Ammons asked if the build out on the sheet was for the Coroner and the County Clerk's storage. Reinhart said yes and that everyone is already moved in. The Coroner and County Clerk offices are planning for an open house tentatively scheduled for February 28. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Courthouse Sound System Project Update

Reinhart said a tentative 3 ½ week schedule to complete the project. There is a walk-through schedule for Friday of this week and the project is moving along well. Betz thanked both Quisenberry and Alix for the work they put into this project.

Jail Space Improvement Project

Establishment of Jail Space Improvement Project Planning Team

Betz stated that normally, since this is not a County Board committee, the Board does not have authority to appoint them to anything. These individuals are willing to serve on the committee according to the model of the NIC and the information is provided for information purposes. He has no problem with this committee listening to all those representing services. He said it is not designed to exclude anyone. He said that Judge Difanis and Julia Reitz may appoint anyone to represent them on the committee. This is how other issues have been dealt with in the past with the initial steps of the projects.

Approval of Release of RFP for Consultant Services for Needs Assessment and Pre-Design Planning

Motion by Langenheim to recommend approval of release of a RFP for Consultant Services for Needs Assessment and Pre-Design Planning; seconded by O'Connor. Busey said this would be a RFP for a specific service and based upon the responses a single vendor would be selected to conduct the needs assessment and pre-design planning for the County's jail space. O'Connor asked if it would be appropriate to split the needs assessment and the pre-design planning. Busey said the pre-design goes with the needs assessment. This information then would be presented in the next phase that goes on to an engineering/architect firm. She said a jail planner can produce the pre-design bubble plan and is the recommended first step determined by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC).

Ammons felt the timeline that was included in the packet makes the automatic assumption that a new jail will be built. Ammons said those attending the conference were on a research mission to find out options only. Ammons said the original referendum regarding the public safety sales tax was to be repealed, but in 2003 the sunset clause seems to have been repealed. Ammons said her involvement in this Board seems to get the go ahead and then is out of the public view. But she said the public's issue seems to be ignored and asked the board step back and set up around the entire County public debates on this issue. She said the people she has spoken to want the maintenance issues addressed, but the expansion issues should go back to public debate. Lastly, she said, it is clear to her the stakeholders on the planning team have a

personal stake in this project and there is no representation of African American order or Latino representation. Busey said a report was given in October to this Board and it was reported that a team was to be developed are the people that the NIC suggested. Busey said a model was being followed for this purpose. Ammons stated her disagreement with that process. Langenheim said that all agreed the problems at the downtown jail must be corrected. He said this is the process for needs assessment and pre-design planning and we should go ahead and find out what it is about. He urged the Board to approve the release for the RFP and then discuss who to put on the committee. He said the Board can then change or add members to the committee.

Holderfield pointed out that it says on the timeline at the end that if the County Board determines not to proceed, then the project ends. She said she asked Sheriff Walsh if the areas of mental health and medical facilities would be addressed as part of the re-design. Sheriff Walsh reassured her that they would be included. Holderfield wanted to reassure Ammons that everyone would be heard and that she does care of the well-being of everyone involved, both inmates and employees that work in those buildings.

James asked if there is a dollar amount that might be assessed with the RFP. Busey said the Board probably won't know the dollar amount until the RFP responses are received, and are looking into entering into a contract which would be a decision to be made by the County Board. Berkson asked that a broad based group evaluate the RFP. Betz stated it is solely up to the Board to vote on the RFP, but said that others may give input or advice. Jay thinks one of the things that need to be done is to understand the County Board does not decide who goes to jail, but to provide the incarceration facilities. He said the Board needs to get the focus on what is next, which is the needs assessment, whether it is refurbishing the existing jail or adding on the to the satellite jail. Anderson thought at the end of last week's discussion until there seemed to be a consensus to move forward and the only to move forward is to issue the RFP for a needs assessment. Maxwell said it seemed there have been problems in the past with knowing what is being asked in the RFP. Betz responded saying a draft will be prepared and brought back to the Board for input and discussion.

Busey stated, according to the Purchasing Policy, the Board releases the RFP. In this case it makes sense to draft the RFP and have it prepared for the February 23 full Board meeting for any comments or input. Ammons said she wanted to go back and separate the issues. She said the only option that seems to be given is a pre-design plan and that the Board talks like it is one item. She said she asked for cost assessments for repairs made downtown versus a rebuild of a jail addition. She said no discussion had taken place on what can be fixed on the maintenance issues of the downtown jail. Ammons then directed a comment toward Mr. Jay that the Board controls the one-quarter percent sales tax.

Alix thinks the downtown jail is nearing the end of its useful life and the RFP needs to be issued to find out what the potential improvements are. The whole point of doing the RFP is to find out the costs are in the needs or what can be done. He said any construction project is still several years off and would like some of this planning process focus on short term strategy and any contingency plans. He said the language could use some work when talking about design planning and didn't agree that the Board is considering jail expansion, because they have to look at what issues need to be addressed. He sees a facilities issue and felt the RFP needed to be issued. He said input from individuals who work in the system, whether it is medical or mental health professional, would be beneficial.

McGinty wanted to address the issue of tone from this point forward on this issue. He said it's not clear that they're talking about expansion and is interested in what the public has to say. Esry said his assumption would be to address the work needed at the downtown jail now, and that part of that process is to fix the exterior issues. Holderfield stressed she is not ready to spend one dime until the questions are answered. Her concern is the current facility is unsafe and wants the inmates in a facility that is in good repair and have the medical and mental health care that is needed. She said statistically in comparable counties Champaign County has the lowest rate of incarceration. She said she wanted to fix what is broken, not increase the number of beds.

Busey said in response to questions raised said that pre-design planning is not a floor plan, but is a bubble design concept of what will best serve those programs and needs in the jail with regard to kitchen space, education programs, exercise, health care and how to address those needs. It also helps to figure what spaces those needs and programs can share. Sheriff hopes that pre-planner does the bubble diagrams and takes into consideration all the services. He intends to involve those professionals who provide and deliver those services. He stated he has no personal stake in this project, he only wants to provide options for the Board to consider.

Petrie wanted to hear responses from Busey and Betz as to the possibility of adding certain categories of individuals to the project team and taking in account some of the comments made during public participation. Regarding the timetable, she said she thought the dates are not set in stone and would like no more than a minimum of three months. Betz said, with regard to the issue of scope, that there is nothing in the RFP proposal that would exclude the downtown facility or satellite, but we're looking at space needs and how everything fits in. He said in his sixteen years on the Board he has yet to see a perfect RFP. He said there is always room for ideas. He has found the Sheriff completely open in every way to ideas, in ways of helping the gender issue, education, screening, etc. He said he is amazed as to how open he is to alternative ideas. Betz said that in the process, one of the things discussed at the jail conference in Colorado, was how to use the programs. He said this County is a leader in those programs. He said it is all part of the assessment process. He feels it bothersome that the public thinks that none of this is going on.

Ammons exited the meeting at 9:51pm.

Betz mentioned that people think that jails perform no function and it picks on the poor people, for instance someone who was incarcerated for domestic violence. He asked what people thought the battered spouse thought. He said there are people who belong in jail. He said there is a misrepresentation out there that traffic offenders are mixed with murderers and didn't feel that is the case, because there are liability issues with that. The board will continue with this discussion for years to come. He wants to keep the objective that this is about a facilities issue.

Busey wanted to speak on the issue of the project team. She said this is the same model that was used for all other building projects since the jail was built in 1996. The project team has the basic responsibility for staff work that is required. In this process of working with the consultant, she imagines a large number of employees who work in the correctional center will be interviewed. They will talk about all the issues that are involved. When we get to that stage of the process, then other comments can be taken. This team gets the project moving forward.

Rosales asked Reinhart why the issue of maintaining the jail had gotten so bad. Reinhart said they have maintained the building as best as possible with budget constraints. He said a new

roof was put on some time ago. Much of the equipment is thirty years old, but they maintain those as much as possible. He said what cannot be maintained, which is adding to the conditions, is the fact that there have been multiple hangings and breakouts on the early design. There has been welding issues on ventilation, covering windows, etc to deal with those issues. Lighting is poor, ventilation is poor because of these issues. He said type of paint needed to paint that building cannot be done because the ventilation is poor. He continued to describe using special equipment for some projects. He said there was a small fire years ago, the fire departments had to bring in special equipment just to exhaust the smoke out of the building and the inmates needed to be moved to the outdoor recreation areas. Rosales asked if we were currently in code violation. Reinhart said not yet with regard to safety codes.

Reinhart said that close to a million and half dollars will more than likely have to be spent sooner or later on roof replacement, exterior tuck pointing, etc. When asked, they can continue to keep the building running, but most pieces of equipment are thirty years old. He said what cannot be done is completely gut the cellblocks to improve the ventilation, etc and make corrections for the hanging issues. He said they can continue to piece meal repairs, such as air handlers and heating issues, but that is throwing bad money after bad money. Rosales asked how it would take to budget to take care of these issues. He wanted to make sure that when a RFP is issued, costs for maintenance should be included. Langenheim said everyone recognizes there is a problem and the RFP should address those issues and if the Board cannot come to an agreement as to what can be done. He said we need to bring in a consultant to assess and bring back information in an organized manner.

Michaels asked if a change could be made to the language with regard to the language and a release of a RFP. Betz said he would change the wording of the request to “release of RFP” to “develop a RFP”. Weibel responded to Rosales’ comment about budgeting for maintenance of the jails. He said it was this Board that makes those cuts and that Reinhart is making the best use of what is budgeted. Betz then asked for a roll call vote. **Motion to develop a RFP for Consultant Services for Needs Assessment and Pre-Design Planning carried by roll call vote with Alix, Anderson, Berkson, Betz, Esry, Holderfield, James, Jay, Kurtz, Langenheim, McGinty, Michaels, Quisenberry, Richards, Schroeder and Weibel voting yes and with Carter, Cowart, Maxwell, O’Connor, Petrie and Rosales voting no.**

Cost Assessment and Comparative Study of Jail Space Solutions at Satellite Jail and Downtown Correctional Center

Betz said results from the RFP will answer some of these questions.

Garner Together Impactors in Social Justice System to Present Information Regarding Improvements and Implementing Suggestions in the Jailing Communities Report

Betz stated this issue is not entirely related to Facilities. He said information should be compiled in Justice and Social Services area of the County Board. He said it would be good and a perfect way to have that information. Richards spoke about an email from Betz that was sent to all of their caucus members and he agreed these issues would be discussed under the heading of Justice and Social Services. Richards expanded further and said that Court Services would be at next week’s COW and speak to social services they use to keep people out of jail. Richards talked about having an agenda item to talk more about policy related issues having to do with this such as talking about programs already being used, i.e. diversion programs, etc.

Alix recognized that no one came to the Study Session to speak about minor issues, but they came to talk about the system, and issues like racial disparities and sentencing and reducing crime in the community. He felt some of the work release type programs don't work as well because the current facility isn't suited well for that type of program right now. Kurtz said it seems there is some misinformation about what is happening and that the numbers speak for themselves. Over the last 10 years, he said the incarceration has decreased by thousands of inmates. He pointed out the most recent list of drug court graduates list included 80% of people of color. He hoped they can be improved and expanded upon because they're helpful. Betz thanked Richards for taking on big project.

Funding Model Based on Current Available Resources

This item to be placed on next month's agenda.

Other Business

None.

Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

None to be placed on the Consent Agenda..

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Chair Weibel declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranae Wolken
Recording Secretary

Secretary's note – The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.