



**Minutes
Grant County Fiscal Court
Special Meeting
September 13, 2016**

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Stephen Wood called to order the Special Meeting of September 13, 2016.

Those in attendance were Judge/Executive Stephen P. Wood; Magistrates Jacquelyn Riley, and Shawna Coldiron; Sheriff Chuck Dills, and Deputy Judge/Executive & Fiscal Court Clerk Scott Kimmich.

Citizens in attendance were: Chief Deputy Sheriff Brian Maines, Deputy Mike Webster, Deputy Bobby Webb, Deputy Jailer Howard and Cindy Chipman, Chief Deputy Jailer Lisa Mentrup, and Teresa Wood.

Presentation on Meeting Jail Standards

Judge Wood presented comments to the Fiscal Court concerning a proposal to repair the HVAC and plumbing at the Grant County Detention Center.

Judge Wood said, "... regardless of whether we keep the facility open as a full service facility for just Grant County inmate and mothball the rest of the facility or rent it out to a third party; return to the operational model of the past with a mix of county and state prisoners; privatize the facility; close the facility all together; or establish a hybrid of all of the same, the responsibility of this fiscal court is to maintain that asset.

I'll be the first to admit, I'm not sure how we insure if additional work is done that the Jailer and his staff are maintaining the asset, short of having our own maintenance personnel overseeing and inspecting that facility on a weekly basis, but I can tell you, if we remain in operation that is exactly what I intend to do.

But before we get there, we have to acknowledge we have a facility that is owned by the county, and I believe we have to treat it as if it were our house, we can either sell it or continue to live in it, but one thing is for sure, if we don't fix it, living in it is not an option and selling it without repairs comes as a loss.

Just to let you know specifically where we are in the fact gathering process:

Since we began this journey some 60 days ago I have reached out to 7 counties concerning housing our prisoners and have received rates ranging from \$35.00 to \$66.00 per day. Those costs do not include the transportation or the costs for pharmaceuticals or hospital visits.

In one scenario we have examined, to reduce costs to Grant County taxpayers, because of distance and the size of the facility we would be partnering with, we have to split pre and post adjudicated inmates.

For the record, Scott County, Carroll County Detention, Franklin Regional Jail and Fayette County Detention have all advised they have no bed capacity.

As an aside, I have learned in conversations with officials from Kenton and Fayette counties that they are having the same difficulties we are in finding staff.

In Fayette the beginning salary is in excess of \$38,000 per year and they still cannot find people willing, qualified, and capable to do the job.

In Kenton the salary differential is not as great but they were down ten or more during my last communication with the county officials.

Finally, I have reached out to a number of counties concerning the potential to form a regional jail.

While I have not received a formal response there is an evaluation of that option underway and I have asked for a reply as soon as possible.

Once the regional jail option has been examined by potential partners, if negotiations to establish a regional jail fall through, I will call this court into special session and present a comprehensive cost comparison based on the options with which we are faced, and the magistrates will be asked to cast a vote based on the numbers we have before us.

I can assure you of one thing, if a regional jail concept is put in place, we will have to begin the process with a jail that meets state jail standards.

In the weeks preceding this meeting some have questioned my being too tight lipped about the process.

Bottom line is I have tried to maintain confidentiality in my negotiations with other counties because I do not want counties leveraging our decision by seeking unreasonable rates from us or creating openings for increases to our neighboring counties.

You all know that we imposed a 120 day time limit on ourselves, but because of life safety issues, DOC imposed a 90 day time limit.

Time is something we cannot waste and I am asking you again, let's keep the ball on the court.

Let's take responsibility for protecting the existing asset of this county and keep all our options open.

Failure to act removes all options other than the one in which DOC locks down our facility in October."

Judge Wood then presented a recommendation to contract with Perkins Service for HVAC work in the amount of \$32,925 and a contract in the amount not to exceed \$32,000 for plumbing work to be completed at the detention center.

Magistrate Riley said she has issues with voting to approve work at the detention center when there has been no final resolution as to the ongoing plans related to the facility. She said that to commit to expend this amount of money without a plan is not providing transparency in the expenditure of public funds. She said it is impossible to explain to the citizens of Grant County the Fiscal Court spending \$72,000 on a detention center the county has not determined they will continue to use.

Magistrate Coldiron voiced her concerns as well. She echoed the comments of Ms. Riley.

Mrs. Riley said she would rather just take action to rescind the previous action of the court and then proceed in making whatever building repairs are necessary.

Judge Wood explained he is not yet ready to commit to rescinding the resolution.

Magistrate Riley moved to table the recommendation before the court and Magistrate Coldiron seconded the motion. There was no formal vote on the motion to table.

Judge Wood advised there was no need to retire to Executive Session as had been requested in the presentation of the Agenda.

Adjournment

Magistrate Coldiron moved adjournment and Magistrate Riley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned without a formal vote inasmuch as this was a special meeting and no business other than those items listed on the agenda could be discussed.

Signed:



Stephen H. Wood

Grant County Judge/Executive