

November 12, 2009

LONG-RANGE PLANNING/REAL ESTATE & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee met Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., in the Quorum Court Meeting Room, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Sandlin, Brown, Lewis, Hubbard, Winscott

Others Present: JPs Moore, Douglas, and Harrison, County Judge David Bisbee, Sheriff Keith Ferguson, County Attorney George Spence, Comptroller Richard McComas, Director of Public Safety Greg Hines, Health Department Director Loy Bailey, JDC Director Dennis Cottrell, Chief Deputy Don Townsend, Major Gene Drake

Media: Tabatha Hunter –Morning News

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by JP Winscott at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Comments

Betsy Reithemeyer thanked the Justices of the Peace for their time and due diligence in considering the Center For Nonprofits. She stated the numbers of people who are utilizing the services of the Health Department continue to grow, with statistics indicating that more people will turn to the Health Department and other low cost providers for their health care needs in the next few years. She stated that statistics indicate that by 2015 there will be more people living at or below the poverty level in Benton County than any other county in the state. She said that the Health Department is unable to serve a greater number of people due to the physical constraints of its current location, and if it is moved to the CFN, it is doubtful that they would need additional space for many years. She cited transportation difficulties and said that having the Health Department on a regular bus route would be beneficial for the people using its services, as well as having multiple services at one location.

Jim Wilson, Administrative Manager for the Northwest Region of the Arkansas Department of Health, said he has toured the CFN, and they are interested in pursuing that relationship. He said it looks like a very good space for the Health Department and would allow room for growth.

Don Spann stated that he is a 40-year resident and taxpayer of Benton County, and is also the building architect for the Center For Nonprofits. He said as the stewards of tax dollars, they should consider the value and durability of the Center For Nonprofits. He said it is virtually a new building which will stand the test of time for the next 75 years. He stated a building of the same structure as the CFN today would cost over \$200 per square foot, which the county could not afford with current revenues. He stated this proposal from the Jones Trust would be the lease of a lifetime, the best value for the dollar this county could invest in, and probably better than a purchase. He added that the county would not have to operate it, maintain it, pay taxes or insurance, or pay a facility engineer to take care of the building. He stated that he would encourage them to take advantage of the value of this proposal because it is in the best interest of Benton County and its taxpayers.

Jim Mather, Executive Director of Sources for Community Independent Living Services, a nonprofit agency dedicated to promoting community inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, with offices in Fayetteville and the Center For Nonprofits, stated that the Center For Nonprofits would provide a unique opportunity to the Health Department to provide better access to their services via location, parking, other transportation options, and increased clinic space. He stated that it broadens the array of supportive services being located with other agencies who are also dedicated to providing quality services to citizens of Benton County.

3. Proposed Facility Plan: Discussion of Proposals “A”, “A-1”, “B”, and “C”

JP Wincott stated that information on the four proposals being considered has been distributed, and that a contingency to cover additional, unexpected costs has been included in each total capital investment. JP Wincott stated that the motivating factor for the proposed facility plan is to relocate the Juvenile Detention Center to a facility that has the capacity for it to function and operate efficiently. He added that this has been a high priority for several different committees for the last five or six years.

JP Wincott listed the four proposals as follows:

Proposal A: Moving the County Health Department to the Center For Nonprofits in Rogers
15-year lease for \$1,966,905 per year; Initial Capital Investment of \$2,446,905
Total Capital Investment - **\$5,536,145** Annual Expenses - **\$405,940**

JP Wincott noted that the annual savings of \$171,750 would be realized with any of the four proposals, due to the reduction of leasing costs.

Proposal A-1: Same as Proposal A - Reduced amount of square footage
15-year lease for \$1,791,815 per year; Initial Capital Investment \$2,271,815
Total Capital Investment - **\$5,361,055** Annual Expenses - **\$392,498**

Proposal B: Purchase of Highway 12 Property (Perry Butcher Building)
Purchase price of \$1.2 million and two adjacent lots for \$150,000;
Initial Capital Investment of \$1,830,000
Total Capital Investment - **\$4,919,240** Annual Expenses - **\$337,000**

JP Wincott noted that “Initial Capital Investment” for Proposals A, A-1, and B includes: \$330,000 for build out costs for Juvenile Court and Administration in either the former Health Department building or the new Butcher Building and \$150,000 to remodel existing 2nd floor office space in Courthouse. “Total Capital Investment” for Proposals A, A-1, and B includes \$2,574,240 for the construction of the hardened facility portion of the JDC and a \$515,000 contingency.

Proposal C: Entire New Juvenile Complex on Highway 102 Property
\$4,955,216 to construct new Juvenile Justice Complex; Initial Capital Investment \$150,000 (to remodel 2nd floor in Courthouse)
Total Capital Investment - **\$5,505,216** Annual Expenses - **\$373,000**

JP Wincott noted that the contingency for Proposal C is \$400,000.

Betsy Reithemeyer pointed out that the costs for the Center For Nonprofits are turnkey costs with all renovations completed.

County Judge Dave Bisbee was recognized and stated that after being asked at the October Committee of Thirteen meeting what his choice would be, he had said it would be to move the Health Department to the Center For Nonprofits in Rogers, and to occupy the old Health Department building with county agencies that would fit into that building. He stated the Quorum Court asked him to look at the Health Department building and determine what it would take to renovate it and move the Election Commission, Drug Task Force and Road Department offices to that building. He stated that after looking at the building, he is convinced it would be a very wrong move, because it would be a poor use of that building in the event it is vacated. He said a far better use for the building would be as administrative offices for the Juvenile Probation Office and Juvenile Court, with the plan to include building the detention facility adjacent to it. He said he can support any of the proposals, but as they debate the issue he would like for them to consider that if they are going to do anything to move or expand the County Health Department in the next 10 to 15 years, now is the time to do it. He said if they are going to leave the County Health Department where it is, then Proposal B or Proposal C would be better options for dealing with the JDC. He said that he will support any proposal that comes out of this committee.

He said Finance Committee Chair JP Moore can provide them with the breakdown of all the financial information, and noted that the projections they have made for the next two years are very conservative.

JP Moore stated that they try to keep an operating fund of approximately \$3.5 million over and above the mandatory 10% reserves. He said they feel confident that having an operating fund of \$7.5 million for emergencies has worked well over the years. He said that there will be some funds available from the cost-saving measures that have been taken for 2009 and 2010, as well as the Capital Projects fund, which continues to increase by \$625,000 per year. He said between the money set aside for the Census, and the budget cuts, by the end of 2010 they should have approximately \$11 million available for construction purposes, and at the end of 2011, that amount will increase to \$11.7 million. He said there is no reason to go into debt, and they should have ample funds available without dipping into the operating or mandatory reserves.

JP Douglas stated that the numbers help, because his contention has been that they need to first determine how much they need to keep in reserve, and how much they have available to spend before they go on a building or buying spree. He questioned whether \$7.5 million is enough, and asked if they would want to spend the entire \$11 million or keep more in reserve.

County Judge David Bisbee stated that his conservative side would prefer keeping an additional \$2 million in the Census fund. He said that would leave \$9.5 million in reserve, and \$7.5 available immediately. He said that one year from today, they can add another \$2 million to that, and one more year later, they can add another \$1 million. He noted that \$1 million of that is already allocated to the Sheriff, who is planning to ask for a minimum-security barracks, which he supports 100%. He said that the War Eagle Bridge project is still unfinished, and they are estimating that it may cost up to \$725,000 to complete it. He said there is a lot of planning still to be done, so the money is not going to be spent all at once.

A financial summary was distributed showing the amounts in reserve and the amounts available for the next two years. County Judge David Bisbee stated that his recommendation is to keep \$3.5 million in operating capital, \$4 million in mandatory reserves, and he would like to keep another \$2 million in the Census reserve, for a total of \$9.5 million, so by the time they could start a building program, there will be just under \$10 million available.

JP Sandlin asked when War Eagle is going to bid. County Judge David Bisbee stated that the bid documents are presently being drawn up and sent out. JP Sandlin asked about bonding. County Judge David Bisbee stated that they have talked to two different companies, and basically, for a 15-

year bond, it takes 10% of the amount bonded to make the annual payment. The committee discussed bonding.

County Judge David Bisbee stated that the Sheriff is planning to use the additional revenue from ticket fines, along with the \$1 million already allocated, to make payments on a 5-year note to build the minimum-security barracks. JP Sandlin questioned interest rates on loans. County Judge David Bisbee stated that they have paid as low as 3% in recent years, and may have to pay as much as 5% now, but on a 5-year loan it does not have that much impact due to the large principal payments.

JP Moore stated that they need to decide once and for all whether they are going to move the Health Department to Rogers.

JP Hubbard asked Health Department Director Loy Bailey if he has changed his opinion about their current location. Loy Bailey stated that usable space is an immediate and future need in either location, and whatever the Quorum Court decides is financially prudent, they will support 100%. JP Hubbard stated that he would like Loy Bailey's opinion – to move or to stay. Loy Bailey said that future space is the primary concern, and if they stayed at the present site that would mean some sort of expansion.

JP Winscott asked how many square feet the Health Department is, and how much is used by the County Extension Service. Loy Bailey stated that the building is a little over 14,000 square feet, including the auditorium, and he believes the Extension Service uses about 4,500 square feet. JP Winscott stated that they could expand about 10% if the Extension Service was moved, and asked if that would take care of their needs for the next 10 years. Loy Bailey stated that it could certainly allow for expansion of the clinical side, because they could move the Environmental staff into the Extension Service space. JP Winscott asked if the opening of the facility in Siloam Springs has alleviated some of the traffic at the Bentonville location. Loy Bailey stated it has not reduced it appreciably, but a lot of their WIC clients that were getting services in Springdale, Lowell, and Bentonville are now getting services in Siloam Springs.

JP Douglas stated that the proposal to move the Health Department and to then utilize the vacated building for other county offices seemed to be spending \$2 million to just to shuffle offices around and did not make economic sense; but, utilizing the Health Department building as part of a JDC would offset the cost of the new JDC by that amount. He said he can see real benefits of expanding the size of the Health Department and obtaining the goal of getting the JDC into better facilities, so he could support one of the CFN proposals.

JP Moore stated that it would also fulfill one of the County Judge's desires to get the prisoners off the downtown sidewalks, because the current JDC space could be used for holding areas for the prisoners. He said they could also eventually move Judge Schrantz's courtroom into the Courthouse and eliminate that lease expense.

JP Hubbard stated that they discussed the nonprofit thoroughly at the last meeting, and after touring the building on Highway 12, he would like to discuss it, because the first three are all viable options, and they are trying to narrow down what the best option is. He said after the tour of the building, and in looking at the numbers, one thing they are leaving out is the Road Department's needs. He said they have not discussed that, and none of these proposals address it. He said they are almost looking at having to build the Road Department another building if they want to take care of that. He said that Proposal B is a little cheaper, which might allow them to work in the Road Department building, and then they could complete everything. He said he likes Proposal B better than anything they have looked at; he likes the location, it is a new building, the lots provide room for expansion, and it just seems like a better fit for Benton County. He said it fulfills the requirements of moving the JDC to a new facility, empties the current JDC, and he likes the parking, maintenance, and the overall idea of Benton County owning the building instead of leasing,

even if it is a long-term lease. He said all of the proposals meet their needs, but the question is which one is better suited for Benton County, and right now for him it is Proposal B.

JP Moore asked what office would be relocated to the Highway 12 property. JP Winscott stated that they discussed several possibilities, but he could not recall all of them at the moment. JP Moore asked how many square feet the building is. JP Winscott stated that it is 21,680 square feet. JP Moore asked how that would help the Road Department. JP Hubbard stated that it would be a cheaper alternative, so they could free up a little more money for them to actually build a building, which is not addressed in any of these proposals.

JP Brown stated that is the whole point of talking about long range planning, because they are addressing the complete juvenile system, a building for the Road Department, and barracks for the Sheriff, so this is not a one-part deal. He said they will accomplish five or six goals with one fell swoop. He said one of his main reasons for even becoming a Justice of the Peace is his concern for the Juvenile Justice System, because we owe it to the community and to society to do whatever possible to change these kids' paths and directions, and right now they do not have the facilities to do that. He said the Juvenile departments have worked bare-bones for a long time, especially in Juvenile Court and Probation. He said he agreed with JP Hubbard's opinion of the building on Highway 12 and what they will be able to do with it. He said time-wise and money-wise, they would be money ahead with that building.

JP Sandlin stated that it will also handle the County Extension Office to free up some space to expand the Health Department if they remain in their current location. JP Brown stated that they need to keep in mind that the extra lots that are proposed along with the building will allow them to build something else if they need to, because available land seems to often be the biggest problem.

JP Douglas asked for clarification of the asking price. JP Winscott stated that the asking price is \$1.5 million, but the figure that has been discussed is \$1,260,000.

JP Moore stated that those who served with him on the previous Long Range Planning Committee will agree that it is time to do something. He said he will support any of the options if they are well thought out, because he is tired of just talking about it and is ready to get something done. JP Brown agreed.

JP Hubbard asked if they could address the Sheriff's minimum-security building and then discuss all of the items together as part of one big plan. JP Winscott stated that he would not mind talking about it, but he would like to get a consensus, position, or recommendation that they can forward to the Finance Committee and get the ball moving. He said that the jail is included in the budget recapitulation figures, and moving forward with any of the proposals would not exclude doing something with the barracks. JP Hubbard stated that he just wanted to tie all of the numbers together and the jail expansion will require adding extra personnel, which will affect annual expenses and play a role in making the decision.

JP Brown stated that everything basically ties in together. He added that we need to know what we are going to utilize the old Juvenile Detention Center facility for, and we have not determined what the best use would be. He added that striped prisoners are not his biggest concern, and he wants to see progress, not discussion.

JP Hubbard asked if they are looking for some type of motion to specify which one of these proposals is going to be recommended.

JP Winscott stated he would like for this Committee to come out of this meeting with a motion to forward some type of proposal to the Finance Committee.

JP Moore stated that we need to have a decision one way or another on the Center For Nonprofits, as we do not want to keep them on the hook.

JP Hubbard made motion to forward Proposal B to the next Finance Committee meeting with a recommendation from the Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee, seconded by JP Brown.

JP Douglas questioned the zoning of the property on Hwy12 if it is within the Bentonville city limits. He asked if there would be any problems in getting it zoned to allow a Juvenile Detention Center to be located there.

County Attorney George Spence stated that in looking at the property, they have considered that it is not now zoned properly, and have had discussions with the Bentonville Planning Department concerning how the property could be used for a new JDC facility. He added that any offer would include the contingency that the property could be zoned correctly.

Director of Public Safety Greg Hines stated he would like to point out for clarification that the only other department being considered for relocation to the Hwy 12 building, other than the Juvenile Justice system, is the Election Commission. He added that the second level is to be used for the other offices of the JDC, and the additional lots to be purchased would be just for the hardened facility.

JP Wincott offered the opportunity for public comment on this subject only.

Betsy Reithemeyer stated she appreciated the due diligence that the committee has done in considering this proposal. She said that the committee should consider the human factor in terms of transportation for the communities that they are trying to serve. She stated that the Center For Nonprofits is still a viable alternative, and delivers many things that are intangible to the communities that need them the most.

JP Moore stated that he liked the potential of the Hwy 12 property for the JDC and the whole juvenile system to all work together. He stated that he is not ready to let go of the idea of having the Health Department in the Center For Nonprofits, and if the existing Health Department building was opened up, that would still take care of the Road Department and a few other departments that are in leased spaces. He added that would allow us to demolish the old Road Department building to create a proper shop. He stated that we have the funds to do both; the Hwy 12 property and all renovations needed, and the Center For Nonprofits. He stated he would urge the committee to give consideration to that possibility.

JP Douglas questioned if there would be any advantage to having the entire Juvenile Justice system located near the Jail. JP Wincott stated that he has been working with the JDC to help develop proposal C, and it is a functional unit, which includes the court system, administrative staff, probation officers, and the JDC facility and its staff and administration. He stated that it is an integral unit in itself.

JP Wincott recognized JDC Director Dennis Cottrell to address JP Douglas' question.

Dennis Cottrell stated the juvenile system cannot be within sight and sound of the adult detention system; they have to be separated. He stated that after touring the Hwy 12 building he believes that the property is very functional and offers good potential. He added he felt it would be a very positive move if the court decided to approve that proposal.

JP Wincott stated that he agrees with JP Brown and some of the other comments that have been made, and there are other things that need to be addressed.

JP Moore stated that the County Judge has suggested that the current JDC space could be used as climate-controlled storage facility.

JP Hubbard stated that for the last few years we have talked about expanding and moving different departments, and that the Health Department has never come up, but the JDC has. He added that he

does not like the lease idea, or the age of the Center For Nonprofits building, and he does not think it is possible to ever make a building as good as new. He noted that in 15 years, the county will be responsible for a percentage of the maintenance, and that is a variable. He said he also likes the idea of ownership, because it seems to be paying off where the Jail and Road Department are concerned, because when you invest millions of dollars in a building, it is a good idea to have extra space around it. He added that they have heard for the last year that the Health Department staff is happy where they are, and although there has been a sudden change in that position, he still thinks they are fine at their present location. He said there is a traffic issue there now, but Highway 102 will not be under construction forever, and people will eventually be able to access it easily. JP Hubbard restated his motion to send Proposal B to the Finance Committee with the support of the Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee, with a second by JP Brown.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

For: Sandlin, Brown, Hubbard, Lewis, Winscott

JP Winscott suggested that JP Moore call a special Finance Committee meeting to address this issue, so that it can go to the Committee of Thirteen as soon as possible.

4. Minimum Security Barracks for County Jail

JP Hubbard distributed copies of a plan for the location of a minimum-security barracks for the County Jail, and a simplified floor plan showing the entry, visitation, and detention areas. He said the overall cost is \$2.2 million, which includes initial site preparation by the Road Department. He said that \$1,020,000 was allocated for the project last year, so an additional \$1.2 million will be needed. He said that the Sheriff plans to finance the project with a 5-year loan, and make payments with funds from tickets. He said JP Moore could further explain the financing if this committee decides to forward the proposal to the Finance Committee.

JP Hubbard gave a brief description of the structure—metal walls inside and out, and cut masonry walls around the detention rooms, which will each hold up to 36 inmates. He noted that the bunks can be stacked up to three high without exceeding space limitations.

He said he believes the Sheriff and the architect have worked very hard to scale the project down to a workable budget number, and once it goes to bid, they still believe the number will come in lower due to the building trends at this time. He added that the Sheriff is prepared to do as much labor as he can with inmates, but there are too many variables involved in the building schedule to put a percentage on how much inmate labor they will be able to use.

He said that the Sheriff has begun preparing information on the personnel needs, and will complete it when they decide whether or not they are going to fund the building.

JP Moore stated that the court's reservation on this has always been the recurring personnel costs, rather than the actual construction costs, so he would like to have some idea of the annual costs of staffing and maintenance before making a decision.

JP Hubbard stated that one positive that came out of the November 10, 2009 Committee of Thirteen meeting is that they now know that the carry over next year will be \$1.5 million instead of \$900,000, so they may have the flexibility to add some personnel. Sheriff Keith Ferguson was recognized and stated that he estimates that with a capacity of 144 inmates, they would need 9 to 10 additional positions to operate it. He said it will only house non-violent offenders, so the personnel can be minimal. Concerning maintenance, he said that they already have two staff members that take care of all of the maintenance, but he has no idea what the utilities will cost. There was further discussion concerning staffing needs.

JP Brown stated that they would not see an immediate impact until the building is completed, and added that for a long time now, the fear of what it is going to cost has kept them from doing anything at all. Sheriff Ferguson stated that if he gets approval to build the barracks, he expects to have it up and running by the middle of 2010.

Comptroller Richard McComas was recognized and stated that 10 positions will cost between \$400,000 and \$450,000. He said the Sheriff anticipates getting back some fees from the participants that will help offset some of the costs.

JP Douglas stated that they also need to keep in mind that the new JDC will require seven additional employees. He asked how many non-violent offenders are currently in the County Jail. Sheriff Ferguson stated that they usually have about 100.

JP Hubbard noted that once the loan is paid off, they will have the full amount of the fines from the tickets to help with maintenance.

JP Winscott asked if the money from the maintenance fund is directed somewhere else, will money from the General Fund have to be used to replace it. Richard McComas stated that the fine money that they are talking about is new money, and after the building is paid for, it is earmarked for maintenance. JP Winscott asked if that will not require an increase in the Jail staff to handle booking and processing for the minimum-security facility. Sheriff Ferguson stated that he believes they can handle it for now, but cannot make any promises for two or three years down the road. JP Winscott asked if these are non-violent offenders, why can they not be put on electronic surveillance, and let them keep their jobs. Sheriff Ferguson stated that if he releases a third-offense DUI on electronic monitoring who gets the ankle bracelet off, then gets in his car and kills a family, then the Sheriff will get sued, as will the county. He said it is a big responsibility to decide who to let out and who to keep in jail. He also cited an example of someone declared non-violent and released, who then goes out and commits a violent crime after they are released. He said they have discussed it, but if he releases people who have been sentenced to jail by a judge, he is sending a message to that judge that he does not think that person should have been sentenced to jail. He said they need to communicate with the judges so that they can determine who is violent and who is not. JP Winscott stated that he agrees that the judicial system has to be tied into it if it is ever adopted, and asked the Sheriff to continue looking into it.

The committee discussed alternatives to incarceration, such as treatment programs, the county work program, and locking devices on vehicles.

JP Brown stated that asking the Sheriff why he does or does not do something is getting a little bit under his skin, because the man has been in law enforcement for a long time and does not need any armchair quarterbacking. He said the Sheriff should have more support and general trust in the way he wants to run his office. He said if someone does not like the way the Sheriff runs his office, they should put their name on the ballot and run for office, and everyone thinks they can do somebody else's job better – as long as they don't have the job.

JP Hubbard stated that he had the same concept about non-violent offenders being people who failed to pay traffic tickets, or did not appear in court, but he learned a lot on his trip to Little Rock to try and get more funding for State prisoners. He said that the court systems are already trying to do some of these things, and are more lenient now than they ever have been. He said these people may technically be "non-violent", but most of them need to be in jail. He said there are also state laws which set mandatory sentences that must be followed. He said they are going to have to do this building, right now is the cheapest time to do it, and they have the funds available.

JP Hubbard made motion to forward the proposal of an additional \$1.2 million for a minimum-security barracks to the Finance Committee, seconded by JP Brown.

JP Moore suggested having an additional Committee of Thirteen meeting next week, before the November 19, 2009 Quorum Court meeting, to make sure the entire Quorum Court is on board with both proposals before they start on the nuts and bolts in the Finance Committee. He said he feels like they are jumping the gun, and he wants to see how the rest of the JPs feel about it before they go through all the work of putting together a financial proposal.

JP Winscott asked if the motion is to hire an architect, or put together a bid package, or to approve the whole thing right now.

JP Hubbard stated that they have an architect's estimate, and he is ready to approve the whole project and move forward, because he feels the estimate is solid enough to go to the Finance Committee with.

JP Brown stated that if they are going to send it to the Committee of Thirteen, then what is the point of having this committee. He said the committee's function is to make a recommendation to send forward, and maybe they should just do away with all of the committees and just have Committee of Thirteen and Quorum Court.

JP Hubbard stated that he feels like this is what the committee was put together for, to decide on this and make a recommendation. He said he has expressed his frustration with this committee not having any direction, and if they are going to go back there, then they need to disband this committee, and let the Committee of Thirteen decide what to send to the Finance Committee if that is how the committee process needs to work. He said if the Finance Committee decides that it will not work financially, it will not even need to go to the Committee of Thirteen. He said that is what the committees are for—to weed out and sort through. He said it does not mean that it is a “go”; it is just what has come out of the committee.

JP Sandlin stated that they agree that these actions need to move forward, and if it makes the rest of the JPs feel more comfortable to review them, she does not care which order they go, as long as they go forward. She said they have at least done their due diligence as a committee on getting them going forward, and in making a solid move on what Benton County is needing in the future for building expansion.

JP Moore stated that at the last Committee of Thirteen meeting, the mandate to this committee was to develop a solid proposal with costs, and then come back to the Committee of Thirteen, and nothing was said about sending it to the Finance Committee first.

JP Brown stated that they should follow the proper procedure, and if that is to go to Finance, followed by Committee of Thirteen, that is what they should do.

JP Moore said the Finance Committee will decide *how* to pay for it, and the court decides *if* they will pay for it.

JP Hubbard stated that if the Finance Committee decides that it *can* be paid for, and it has come from a committee that has stated this is what we need, then the court has something to digest.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

For: Sandlin, Brown, Lewis, Hubbard, Winscott

JP Hubbard asked Sheriff Ferguson if he could firm up the number of personnel he will need, and estimate how many inmates will be housed so they can project how much money they will get back from fees, so that information can be presented to the Finance Committee.

5. Other Business

County Attorney George Spence stated that the ordinance recently adopted providing additional fees for Jail Maintenance was adopted under an amendment to the State Code, which is very broad

in terms of what the money can be used for. He said it basically allows the money to be used for anything connected to the Jail—construction, maintenance, and perhaps even personnel.

JP Hubbard added up all of the proposals discussed and stated that they total \$8.85 million, and the County Judge made the statement at the beginning of the meeting that they basically had \$9 million available. He said that even if they use up all the funds available, the plans meet all of the goals that have been set, even those set last year, including the JDC, the Road Department, the Jail, lease expenses, and future expansion at the courthouse. He said that the only thing not covered is the Health Department, and the only time it has ever been mentioned was a couple of years ago when the county looked into purchasing the St. Mary's building. He noted that at that time, the plan included selling the piece of property that the Health Department and Road Department sit on.

JP Moore stated that he wanted to point out that they need to consider allocating some money for bridge renovation and construction on the county roads, and quoted JP Douglas, that it doesn't matter if you have the finest road if it can't get you anywhere. He said he does not think they have given enough attention to the bridges in the county, and they need to take a hard look at that and have some money available to fix them.

JP Winscott stated that he would challenge Greg Hines to put together a report on the bridges that are out, develop a cost for repairing them, and when it is developed, they will get him on the agenda and let him present his plan.

Greg Hines stated that they have discussed allocating funds next year for engineering, because there is no question that they are going to rebuild the bridge on Colonel Myers Road, and will start the engineering early in 2010. He said he will get them estimated engineering costs for the other two bridges that are closed.

JP Winscott asked Greg Hines to include a survey of the other bridges and how they are holding up, and which ones are estimated to need costly repairs in the next five years. Greg Hines stated that they can do that to some degree, but the hard part is that they have a lot of 3- and 4-ton bridges that have concrete trucks driving over them every day. He said the rate at which they deteriorate is directly related to the type and amount of traffic using the bridge.

JP Moore added that the two bridges in his district that he is concerned about are the Fisher Ford and Colonel Myers bridges.

JP Hubbard asked if the county currently has a bridge that crosses the Illinois River. Greg Hines stated that there is not one currently open. JP Hubbard stated that all three bridges that cross the Illinois River are closed, and that is why those people are starting to get upset.

JP Sandlin stated that she would also like some clearly defined information on the rail car bridges. Greg Hines stated that he is already looking into that, and has determined that they are commonly used as temporary type bridges, and not of great span. He said that the county has actually used them in the past. JP Sandlin asked how creative we could get with them. Greg Hines stated that he will provide the information.

JP Sandlin stated that before they go any further, however any of the proposals turn out, she would like to thank Betsy Reithemeyer and the Center For Nonprofits for the offer, and she does appreciate the wonderful facilities that they are managing. JP Winscott stated that he is in favor of them becoming very successful, and they are a bright spot in the community.

6. Adjournment

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.