

COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 18, 1995, 7:30AM

PRESENT: Chairman Billy King
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Rollin Shaw
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Sheriff Earl Butler
Captain Dan Ford
Ken Sykes, Inspections Department
George Vaughan, Planning Department
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

1. Update on Jail Project

A. Status of Programming Phase

Mr. Stephen Allan, Architect, told the Committee they are working on the programming phase of the project. He shared with the Committee some of the likes and dislikes of the group who toured the jails in Florence, S.C., Forsyth County and Mecklenburg County (See Attached). In addition, as part of this attachment, there are summary comments on the project, based on what the group saw on the jail tours.

Mr. Allan said it was important for him to get from the Board of Commissioners direction on the size of the facility this County wants to construct. The size will affect the programming, etc. This information will be needed in order for him to give an estimate on the cost of the jail.

Commissioner King said he was impressed with the Florence facility as it related to the noise abatement and color schemes. He said it appears that the recommendations coming from the Sheriff's Department and the Jail Construction Committee indicate we should accept the notion of the "pod concept - direct supervision" mode of construction.

The Committee suggested the full Board be brought up to date on this project and instructed the Manger to agenda the item for a Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Shaw noted the importance of justifying the recommendations that are being made.

B. Projections of Average Daily Population and bed needs.

Captain Dan Ford reviewed charts showing projected jail population figures, average length of stay, average daily population, projected forecast factors effecting jail population, and projected bed needs to the year 2012. Some of the figures come directly from the Criminal Justice Master Plan prepared in 1992, plus updates of some of the figures. (See Attachment).

The projected bed needs for the year 2012 is 722. However, it is not necessary to build this many beds immediately. The importance of being able to expand was noted.

In response to a question from Commissioner King, Mr. Ford noted that the number of inmates awaiting trial for over one year is 7; the number for two or more years is 1.

Mr. Strassenburg, County Manager, said it is his opinion that we should build a minimum of 500 beds. He noted the difficulty in making accurate projections 20 years ahead. He said factors could change and probably will change that could effect our needs in the year 2012. Some of those factors are population, number of arrests, sentencing laws, pre-trial release programs, home confinement programs and authority given to judges in determining sentences. He suggested we use these four guiding principals in determining the scope of the project:

1. Secure a site big enough to accommodate expansion;
2. Select a design concept that will allow for incremental expansion;
3. Initially, put in the basic infrastructure to supply twice the number of beds we will eventually need;
4. Build enough beds initially that will get us through the next ten years.

Commissioner Shaw noted the importance of factoring into the equation juvenile beds.

C. Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Correctional Facilities

At this time, the county's zoning ordinance does not allow for correctional facilities. If in fact, we build a jail in the County, the zoning ordinance will need to be amended to allow such. The City of Fayetteville's ordinance, obviously, does allow jails.

In response to a question, Planning Director George Vaughan indicated staff was looking at this issue and at this point he thought the most obvious areas to site detention centers would be in our Agriculture districts and/or our Industrial districts. However, he is seeking information from other sources that might be helpful to use in addressing this issue. Chairman King said the direction to initiate this action should come from the Board of County Commissioners, since this is a project we will be undertaking.

2. Other Business: Commissioner Faircloth asked the status of the Courthouse SnackBar renovations. Mr. Strassenburg said bids would go out in March, along with bids for the other renovations. Mr. Faircloth said he felt we were dragging this project out too long. Mr. Strassenburg noted he would talk with the Architect about it to see what we can do.

MEETING ADJOURNED