

**COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF
MEMORANDUM**

**APPROVED
AS PRESENTED
04.12.2016**

Date: March 9, 2016
To: Sheriff Jeff Dickerson
From: Millie Wagner, Sheriff's Office Administrator
SUBJECT: **JOCAC MEETING – MINUTES FOR 03/08/2016 MEETING**

Attendees:

Committee Members:
Garrett Lines, Vice-chair
Dennis Kenna
Rita Bernhard
Jeff Auxier
Lester Kahr
Greg Hinkleman
Jamie Maygra
Dave Crawford

Columbia County Sheriff's Office:
Sheriff Jeff Dickerson
Captain Tony Weaver – Jail Commander
Millie Wagner – Sheriff's Office Administrator

Meeting location: Columbia County Justice Center, 901 Port Avenue, Saint Helens, Oregon.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Committee Vice-chair, Garrett Lines.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brady Preheim stated that he would like a copy of the document showing the cost of housing federal inmates. Vice-chair Lines stated that he doesn't want to release the document showing the costs of housing USM inmates until it's been determined that there are no mistakes in it.

Mr. Preheim also stated that the meeting minutes should be published on the website and the Sheriff replied that they were. Mr. Preheim stated that the minutes were not there last week.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of the minutes from previous meetings. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Committee member Auxier and seconded by Committee member Kenna. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentations about what effect a fully functioning jail has had on their agencies/departments were given by Judge Ted Grove; Dale Anderson, Chief Deputy District Attorney; Janet Evans, Director of the Department of Community Justice; Chief Terry Moss, St. Helens PD; and Undersheriff Andy Moyer, CCSO.

- Judge Ted Grove explained that only the most serious offenders were being held in the days when it appeared that the jail would be shutting down due to the funding gap and that the difference between then and now is like night and day. Judge Grove also stated that there is no way we can protect the community adequately without a jail and further stated that the judges are total supporters of keeping the jail open and are willing to help promote any levy or funding avenue in order to keep the jail open.
- Dale Anderson, Chief Deputy DA stated that having the jail open meant being able to enforce release agreements; the ability to hold stalkers, people that commit domestic violence and others that weren't able to be held in the days previous to the levy. He also stated that the 'Failure to Appear' have decreased.

Previously when the jail had only a limited number of beds (due to financial constraints) those charged wouldn't show up for their court dates because they knew they wouldn't be serving any time in jail by not showing up for court.

- Janet Evans, Director of the Department of Community Justice stated that her department was very dependent up on the jail in order to do their job effectively. She explained that their office supervises 600 offenders that have been placed in our community and they cannot provide services without sanctions such as the jail. She further stated that it is a much heavier burden on the taxpayer to send someone to prison than it is to send them to treatment or even to the county jail. "We have to look at the overall cost to the community and not just the cost of the jail." Director Evans went on to say that in the last year, her department used almost 5000 beds for sanctions and in the year before it was half as many beds. As a result of more jail beds available they are seeing more offenders showing up for work crew, treatment, etc. "If we can't enforce sanctions with the jail then the offender goes to prison, which costs the taxpayer more per bed."
- A representative from the Columbia County Indigent Defense Corp. (Columbia County Consortium) had been invited to attend, but was unable to. The Executive Director, Jodi Gartman, did respond via email and asked that it be passed on to the Committee that "if the jail had closed it would have been a logistical nightmare as far as the attorneys working with in custody clients – on both probation violations and new cases. The fact that the inmates would have been located in multiple places across the state would have made handling their cases difficult at best as far as the required time lines when representing in custody clients." The Executive Director also wished to express her appreciation for the time and effort everyone involved in this committee has been putting in.
- Chief Terry Moss, St. Helens PD stated, with all due respect to the judges, the Department of Community Justice, the Sheriff, etc, that he felt the police office was the 'face' of the criminal justice system. He explained that the police officer was the one that the citizens saw on the street and the ones in direct contact with the victims and it definitely had an effect on morale when the offenders they brought to jail were immediately being booked and released because there were no beds available due to the budget shortfall and then the public blamed the police officer for this. "Jail is the most effective tool for Law Enforcement!"
- Undersheriff Andy Moyer (CCSO), wanted to add that in just the last week alone, the Patrol Division took in 13 custodies, one of which was for murder, and if the jail had been closed they would have only been able to keep the one for murder in jail. The Sheriff added that the number of burglaries that CCSO Deputies have responded to has been cut in half this year and the number of property crimes has gone down as well.
- Vice-chair Lines thanked the presenters and explained to them that the Committee was in the process of preparing a report to the Commissioners and he hopes that report can be used to present the information to the public. He asked for suggestions regarding how the Committee can get this information to the public without a budget for doing so.
- Discussion regarding the contributions to the general report and about forming a subcommittee, as well as when the report should be finalized and go out.
 - Committee member Kenna made the motion that a subcommittee consisting of the authors of the individual report sections be formed and they meet to prepare the report in order to have it available for discussion/approval at the next meeting.
 - ◆ Committee member Bernhard seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the committee.

Discussion for the next agenda:

- It was proposed that the report be the sole agenda item for the next meeting.
- Vice-chair Lines stated that getting the information from the report to the public should also be discussed.

Set the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The location will remain the same.

At 8:41 PM, Committee member Maygra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by committee member Kenna; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Millie Wagner, Sheriff's Office Administrator, Columbia County Sheriff's Office