

Administrative Services Committee Meeting
Douglas County, Nebraska
Wednesday, August 15, 2018

The meeting convened at 2:00 P.M. in room 903, Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the August 8, 2018, issue of *The Daily Record*. Douglas County Commissioner James Cavanaugh chaired the committee. Others present at the meeting included Commissioner Clare Duda; Honorable Judge Matt Kahler, Douglas County Juvenile Court; Ray Curtis, Douglas County Court Administrator; Mary Visek, Juvenile Probation Office; Janee Pannkuk, Operation Youth Success; Diane Carlson, Catherine Hall, Leia Baez, Marcos San Martin, Joe Lorenz and Patrick Bloomingdale, Pam Murphy, Douglas County Administration; Jerry Leahy, Public Property; Amber Redmond, Douglas County Corrections; John Friend, Clerk of the District Court; Randy Woodard, Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC); David Sleeter, 911/Communications; Captain Eric Sellers and Sergeant John Huelskamp, Douglas County Sheriff's Department; Jimmie Pinkham, County Attorney; Norma LeClere, Tyler Wilson, James Alexander, Maria Fernandez, Sharon Martin, Constance Mierendorf, Ed Walsh, JoAnn (McGee) Walsh, Larry Storer, Kristopher Peterson, Terry White, Amanda Perrin, Bob Perrin, Mike Carroll, Linda Marchello, Chris Burbach, Paul Bellinger, Mary Jo Barbosh-Weiss, Larry Weiss; Kim Bollow, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller Office; and Dan Esch, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>.

Time markers for when each topic/item occurs during the video are in parentheses.

Introduction (0:00 to 2:00)

Commissioner Cavanaugh led some introductions around the room, and he relayed the purpose for this meeting.

1. Douglas County Juvenile Court judiciary needs (2:00 to 2:58)

Commissioner Cavanaugh introduced Attachment A (Douglas County Justice Center 8-15-18 Existing Square Footage) then asked Judge Matt Kahler for his assessment on what the Juvenile Court has and what it needs.

Judge Kahler relayed general needs of the bench including more space and more security; provided current space situation. Other needs include natural light, meeting rooms, protection/separation needs, probation in same building, galleries for larger groups, and room for expansion. Regarding the Douglas County Youth Center, he relayed it should not be in the same building as the court rooms, it should have proper capacity since it includes housing youth from outside Douglas County Juvenile Court, and it should be staff secure. Judge Kahler wants current programs that are in the community to remain in community; discussed psychiatric care needs. He wants it to be realistic with capacity. (Ray Curtis added information regarding current count.)

Patrick Bloomingdale reminded of staff-secure history and changes. Commissioner Duda confirmed need for more juvenile court space, including plan for additional judges. Ms. Visek provided current summary of crowding, Keeline building (windows, ADA, security); inappropriate meeting rooms, lack of space for both Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation – concerned for both families being served and the staff that serves them.

Jerry Leahy reviewed existing Juvenile Court space, history of 6th floor, some data on Attachment A, and past approaches for space.

Captain Sellers, Douglas County Sheriff's Office: responded to Commissioner Cavanaugh's questions regarding restraints. Captain Sellers reviewed potential physical dangers with youth who need restraints, then reviewed van transportation procedures. Judge Kahler added concerns on potential number of trips between Youth Center and Juvenile Court. He also relayed issues with public and juveniles in same circulation/hallways and that he has had no one reach out to him for staff needs and security plans.

2. *Juvenile Justice Center strategies planning (2:59 to 3:14)*

Public hearings to continue. This is the fourth in a series, future days/times to be announced. Commissioner Cavanaugh called for public testimony.

Sharon Martin, citizen: relayed concerns including timing of information, needs assessment, economics, reducing rooms.

Larry Storer, citizen: relayed concerns of numerous items, organizations, hiring out of state consultants.

Bob Perrin, citizen: relayed concerns from an architect's perspective, lack of data and preplanning.

Tyler Wilson, citizen: relayed concerns about youth in the Juvenile Justice system, including transportation, jeopardizing officers; new proposed building being designed without proper planning; wants process to slow down; wants proper research and space needs met.

Carole Zacek, citizen: referred to assessment available on 12th floor, pros and cons, concerned as taxpayer, disagrees with eminent domain and demolishing a building; wants this to be on a ballot.

3. *Public Property update (3:13 to 3:27)*

Commissioner Cavanaugh introduced this as part of a series of updates.

Jerry Leahy, Public Properties: reviewed Attachment B (DC Correction Center Update: August 15, 2018), including current status and explanation of phases.

Amber Redmond, Interim Director of Corrections: provided observations of the Correction Center project, including security and staff planning.

Mr. Leahy: gave West Maple Campus update, see Attachment C (West Campus Update: August 15, 2018) and relayed that completion points are based on payments to contractors. He introduced David Sleeter, Director of 911.

Commissioner Cavanaugh requested future tour; asked questions about square footage and costs of renovations.

Citizen (no name given): asked additional questions to Mr. Leahy about costs and space. Mr. Leahy provided concerns of state statute requirements and how they relate to challenges with both hiring and space.

Tyler Wilson, citizen: asked about 911 space and call load. Patrick Bloomingdale relayed there is no affiliation between the new 911 space and past call load concerns.

Mr. Skeeter: offered more details of space, technology, and expansion capabilities. Confirmed major disaster call volume is not affiliated with the property update.

4. Other Business

None discussed.

“Juvenile Justice Center Alternative Plan” was made available to those in attendance, but never discussed during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 P.M.