

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC MEETING ON 2-19-19

1. Is there a process to determine site selection for proposed jail?

Answer: Yes there is a process. Based on the information from the National Institute of Correction, most communities will spend \$10.00 to operate a jail for every \$1.00 that it cost to build that jail over a 30 year span. With operating costs being perpetual, every consideration was given to what design provides the most staff efficiency. In the end, it was determined that every attempt should be made to keep the facility on a single level to promote staff efficiency and confirm to the wishes of both our former and current Sheriff, who have no desire to operate a multi-level facility.

Based on this decision making process to promote staff efficiency the first functional consideration of a site has been size. Is the site big enough to promote a single level facility and room for single level expansion? If the answer is yes, additional questions related to price, infrastructure, soil conditions, and proximity to courthouse were assessed.

2. What are the criteria used to determine the best site and how were these criteria selected?

Answer: Please see the answer to Question 1.

3. Has this process been shared with the County Council?

Answer: Yes, this process has been shared with the County Council and additional explanation will be provided in regards to the resolution related to the site which is currently pending before the council.

4. Has this process been shared with the county taxpayers/public?

Answer: Yes, this process and the reasoning behind this decision has been shared with the public over various public forums conducted by both Vigo County and consultants engaged to assist Vigo County.

5. Has the process to determine the site selection for the proposed jail been implemented?

Answer: Yes, there has been a site proposed that meets the criteria set forth above.

6. Has the process for implementation been shared with the County Council?

Answer: Yes.

7. Has the process for implementation been shared with the taxpayers/public?

Answer: Yes.

8. Now that the design phase document is completed, has there been a rough estimate of the staffing and operation of the facility?

Answer: There has been no estimate related to the operation of the facility. Please see answer to Question 12 for staffing issues.

9. There appears to be a timeline that has been created and submitted to the Court for the proposed jail which includes dates such as an April 2019 design completion and a July 2019 construction date. Is this Correct?

Answer: Yes, a timeline was submitted to the Court.

10. - see answer to Question 9

11. Have all the new staff been hired for the existing jail in the effort to meet the standards?

Answer: No, not all the staff have been hired, but the interview and application process is still open.

12. Have you determined a rough estimate of the cost of staffing and operation of the new proposed facility at full capacity?

Answer: Bill Wilson has been engaged to assist in staffing analysis. As Bill has explained staffing is partly a function of how many people are the staff being asked to monitor. It is beyond dispute the design of the proposed facility is more staff efficient than the current county jail. With the being said, the proposed facility is bigger and if the average daily jail population rises, more staff may become necessary to operate a constitutional facility. An early estimate from Mr. Wilson suggested Vigo County may need 116 total staff (we are funded for 70 staff now) when the facility is full, not when the county moves in.

13. Is there sufficient funding for staffing and operation for the proposed jail at full capacity with the increase in the recently passed LOIT?

Answer: This question asks for a prediction of government funding into the future which is difficult. However, .45 cents of the LOIT referenced above expires when the jail is paid off, so the County Council will have to assess the budget situation when that time comes.

14. What are the rough estimates of the transportation costs associated with any proposed jail site that is not on the existing government campus?

Answer: Please see the attached rough estimate.

15. Are there any programs other than incarceration being considered in the new programmed design which have been recommended by the independent jail study conducted and submitted to the County?

Answer: The commissioners welcome all programming supported by the Vigo county courts and funded by the Vigo county council. The commissioners are committed to providing the space for programming in this proposed facility and they believe they have done that.

16. If so what are the costs of additional programming available?

Answer: There are no known costs of additional programming at this time.

17. Who is responsible for the transportation costs to the courthouse for people brought in by city police and will the city absorb any of these costs?

Answer: The County believes the city would only be responsible for running defendants to their city court. Vigo County would be responsible for all other courts.

18. Is the current government complex still being considered as a possible site?

Answer: Yes, it is still under consideration as there is property where the current jail sits which Vigo County owns. However, the site does not provide enough space for a single level facility unless the city gives up property on their parking lot which has not occurred. Vigo County is committed to building a single level facility.

19. Are there any discussions with the city about efforts to combine the sheriff and the police at one location? If so who has been contacted?

Answer: There have been discussions with the mayor and he has indicated a desire to build the police station on wabash ave as the city originally planned.

20. Is the Sheriff being included in any of the site location and design aspects of the proposed jail?

Answer: Yes.

21. Is the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council being included in any of the design or site discussions?

Answer: Yes, there are members of the Council who have been involved in both the site and

design process. There has not been a presentation to the council specifically about the status of the design or site.

22. Have any efforts been made to invoke eminent domain in the site selection?

Answer: No.

23. Without having at least preliminary rough estimates is it reasonable to move forward with design and construction bids without having an idea whether the county can afford the proposed jail?

Answer: The County has been ordered by a Federal Judge to move forward with a new jail and the proposed facility is approximately 500 beds, we have seen populations as high as 360, the County is not building for the distant future on this project.