



## Community Corrections Planning Meeting Minutes June 17, 2014 6:00 pm

Members Present: Daniel Ward, David Berry, Edward Philpot, John Thomas, Steve Nedeau, Ken Brace, Debra Shackett, Alida Millham, Craig Wiggin, Angela Bovill and Maggie Pritchard.

Also present: Laura Brissette from Genesis.

Absent: Gary Goudreau, Brian Loanes and Miller Lovett.

Commissioner Philpot, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Meeting with Delegation:** Commissioner Philpot wanted to take a moment to thank all of the committee members; they have put a lot of work and effort into this project, specifically Superintendent Ward and Dave Berry. Superintendent Ward did an excellent presentation on behalf of the committee. Ultimately, the Delegation voted against the \$2.96 million bond request. There was no reasonable fact based position and no real basis for not approving other than the parties simply disagree. Rep. Worsman stated at the 06/16/14 Delegation meeting that the solution was to close the jail and ship out all of our inmates. That will not work at all. The Select Boards/City Council and all police Chiefs in the County agreed that this is not a viable solution (via county conversations and interactions with the communities and their officials over the last few years) for them, the county, the families visiting, lawyer/client visits, medical issues, etc. If you ship inmates to another county as Rep. Worsman stated, that county does not take care of them, they simply hold them, and at a cost. The county is still responsible for everything associated with that inmate from transport to meeting with their lawyer, traveling to court, medical issues/appointments, etc. Our inmates also work here in the county, there would be costs associated to hire out the work they perform. The Sheriff said it is a ludicrous solution and that they have discussed time and time again. Administrator Shackett stated that we need to focus on getting information out to the people/public. Superintendent Ward reminded everyone that the Towns have no accommodations to hold prisoners. They bring them to the jail. He also went through the effort/exercise of going to all the Police Chiefs gathering numbers, costs, etc. on the effect of shipping inmates to other counties and that information has been given to the Delegation and a presentation of the same was held at a public meeting. This is where the lack of correct information at the public meetings causes a problem, especially when the people who have the information are not allowed to speak. Ms. Pritchard asked why we are outlier. Superintendent Ward stated that this is due to the fact that if you compare our Belknap County Facility to other places similar, we simply do not have the resources that they have. There was

also mention of the old State Prison Facility, which has been proven to be another non-viable solution over the past few years. The last suggestion made by Mr. Dave Devoy to house the woman in the administrative wing of the county complex is not cost effective or safe and secure. And the female population certainly needs to be secure as they can be troublesome.

**Other:** Superintendent Ward stated that the Ricci Greene report is right and that he supports it. We have taken a lot of flak from the cost that was produced by this, but they did exactly what they were hired to do, they did it exactly right and it would be fool hearted to have someone else recreate it. In 4 years, we have already reached the David Bennett reports 10 year projections. The fundamental premises is do we still believe in the model, and unanimously the committee said yes. The price is the problem, not the model. This is why we need to give a schematic design done as Administrator Shackett pointed out, so that we can get the numbers down. Chair Philpot said that he will put together his notes s recapping the issues discussed this evening, and circulate them to the committee members to develop a point paper, etc. Then we can add it to the internet with links, etc. and Ms. Pritchard recommended having a Q & A section on the website. Once this is all complete, to let the newspapers know so that the public can view/read up on the correct information that members have put together.

**Approval of minutes:** M/Thomas, S/Shackett to approve the 06/03/14 minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

**Ricci Greene Associates:** Administrator Shackett had a conversation with Ken Ricci and he has expressed that he is more than willing to come to one of our Community Corrections meetings to keep the process moving forward and in an effort to champion his professional reputation. Administrator Shackett will contact him to establish a date for when he is able to come. He said that it would be at no cost to the county.

**Future meetings:** The committee had discussions regarding future meetings. It was determined that there would be no regularly scheduled jail planning committee meetings at this time. The next meeting that will take place is when Ricci Greene is able to attend. That date is forthcoming and will be announced.

**Adjourn:** M/Thomas, S/Nedeau to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant