



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
34 County Drive
Laconia, NH 03246
Phone (603) 527-5400
Fax (603) 527-5409

David DeVoy
Chairman
Sanbornton

Hunter Taylor
Vice-Chairman
Alton

Richard Burchell
Clerk
Gilmanton

Commission Meeting Minutes March 24, 2015

Commissioner DeVoy called the Belknap County Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

In Attendance: Commissioners David DeVoy, Hunter Taylor and Richard Burchell and County Administrator Debra Shackett.

Guests: Mr. Kevin Warwick and Mr. Ross Cunningham of Alternative Solutions Associates, Inc.

Introductions: Commissioner DeVoy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Mr. Kevin Warwick and Mr. Ross Cunningham of Alternative Solutions Associates, Inc. To the audience as the consultants hired to do the Community Corrections Planning concept. The Commission understands that there is a serious problem if we do nothing regarding the jail. This conceptual design is the direction corrections are going in across the country. Mr. Warwick stated that we incarcerate more inmates than any other country in the world.

Power Point presentation: Mr. Warwick and Mr. Cunningham gave an extensive detailed power point presentation providing data, components of a community correction center, supervised reentry program; risk needs assessment, treatment effectiveness to name a few key topics of discussion. Also discussed were options for the size of the facility along with appropriate numbers of beds for males, females, both for treatments beds and work release beds. Sullivan County has reduced their recidivism rate to 18% with the Community Corrections Program. A statistical fact worth noting is that 1 in 100 adults are under some kind of supervision. Mr. Cunningham asked the Board to seriously consider group space right on the units for programs. These are low cost spaces with a high impact on issues. Also, site planning is extremely planning when using the control room center and that is something we really need to do. In addition, a gym is very important in thinking ahead to what the jail could absorb during times like bike week, which is unique to Belknap County to name one. Other considerations for the existing jail building would be to repurpose areas (not living areas, less money). Build the new building first (so you don't have to house out inmates). Once that is complete, move inmates into the Community Corrections Center and then renovate the existing building. Commissioner DeVoy said that ventilation is a huge issue in the existing jail and would like to be able to fix that right away. They recommended it could be included in the schematic design costs. In

conclusion, Mr. Warwick and Mr. Cunningham state that this plan that they have designed/recommended give Belknap County a cost effective approach to a program that they know will work.

Next steps: The next step in the process would be hiring an Architectural Engineer to do a schematic design and basic costs estimates focusing on making it our own model at Belknap County. Sullivan County's model is what we are mirroring, but each county has individualistic traits and Belknap County needs a plan that best suit their needs.

Rep. Michael Sylvia asked the Commissioners if they plan to bond the costs of hiring an A&E. Answer: No, there is \$440,000 set aside in the budget and part of that will be used for this. Commissioner DeVoy also stated that the Board would like to move forward with costs estimates and design to obtain a fixed price for all of that. From there, request a bond from the Delegation by the end of this year. The presentation concluded at 6:35 pm.

Commissioner's discussion: Commissioner DeVoy directed the meeting back to the Board. Discussions ensued. The Board would like help in finding an Architect from someone who can guide them through the process. Mr. Warwick and Mr. Cunningham can provide this guidance. The Board approves to put the schematic design out to bid for cost estimates from architectural firms utilizing Mr. Warwick and Mr. Cunningham's resources to guide them through the process. Then, they will conduct interviews with 3 or 4 of the architect firms based on their recommendations. M/Taylor, S/DeVoy approve. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant