

**Skagit County Jail Finance Committee**  
**April 21, 2022**

**Meeting minutes**

The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. via Goto Virtual meeting. Chair Gregg Davidson called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. The committee members acting on behalf of the respective entities for the meeting in attendance were:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Anacortes- Steve Hoglund       | 6) County- Melinda Miller |
| 2) Burlington- Mayor Steve Sexton | 7) County- Trisha Logue   |
| 3) Mount Vernon- Doug Volesky     | 8) Chair- Gregg Davidson  |
| 4) SCSO- Don McDermott            |                           |
| 5) Sedro-Woolley- Debbie Burton   |                           |
| 6) County- Commissioner Ron Wesen |                           |

Also in attendance; On behalf of the Sheriff's Office; Jamie Bredstrand, Michelle Long , Elizabeth Christiansen, Chief Don Marlow, Amie Tidrington (Public Health/Sheriff's Office), Deanna Randall-Secret. Also in attendance; Susan Musselman (Consultant), Matt Miller (Anacortes)

**Meeting minutes;** Meeting minutes from previous meetings will be reviewed at a later meeting.

**Operations update** (Chief Marlow)- With Nurse Amie Tidrington's assistance, Inmates are still being isolated in the jail quarantine pod upon being booked due to concerns of COVID. COVID Vaccinations are being offered to each inmate should they so choose. Courts continue to have a large backlog due to COVID as well. Currently, the jails population is 212 persons and is trending upward. The jail work release program has been re-started, with 8 inmates participating since December, and the one day DUI offender program at the Fairgrounds has also continued. All participants in the programs must be vaccinated. Jail Deputies and Patrol Deputies are beginning to have more integrated training. This allows for sharing of knowledge and team building between the 2 divisions.

**Hiring update;** (Chief Marlow)- In 2021, 12 new corrections deputies were hired, and 12 departed employment. As of the current date for 2022, 5 employees have been hired, and 6 are in the hiring process. It is anticipated that 4 employees are preparing to leave, either for retirement or other jobs. The corrections academy has been extended from 4 weeks to 10 weeks which has presented lengthier delays and turnaround times for fully trained new hires. Mayor Sexton asked how the pre-academy hires are being utilized. Chief Marlow advised that they do count as staff and are trained in Defensive Tactics while being closely supervised when working in a pre-academy capacity. Matt Miller inquired as to the maximum capacity of the jail. Chief Marlow advised that the maximum capacity that can safely be housed is 250 persons based on our current staffing levels. Chair Davidson asked if the lengthier stays are because of backlog and Chief Marlow confirmed this. The courts are trying to get trials going at a faster pace, and more plea deals are being made to help reduce the court backlog.

**Financial information;** Michelle Long advised that there have been some changes in accounting from the Washington State Auditor which may result in an increase in revenues and expenses. Mayor Sexton advised that he thought the sales tax numbers seemed low for the City of Burlington. Elizabeth Christiansen advised that there are several tax numbers that are not counted in the figures presented (car dealerships for example). Susan Musselman advised that the figures for the 2021 revenue have not been reported as of this date so it is uncertain how this will affect our reserves.

**Miscellaneous;** Chief Marlow advised that once booking and bed rates are determined, there will be a 90 day notice as to the change.

Steve Hoglund and Matt Miller both advised that Anacortes Work release is up and running. Debbie Burton advised that Sedro-Woolley's work release program is on hold at this time. Doug Volesky advised that Mount Vernon's Program is in the same status.

Mayor Sexton inquired as to the cost effectiveness of Work Release vs. Community Court. Chief Marlow advised that Community Court has not been

running long enough to determine cost effectiveness. Chief Marlow added that in many instances, individuals are only held for one night and it is hard to determine in a short period of time if services such as mental health or drug rehab are needed for those persons.

Mayor Sexton voiced his concern over the maximum usage of the jail. Chief Marlow advised that it is up to the judges as to how long someone is held or if they are held in the jail at all. The number of inmates held is also dependent on staffing for the jail.

**Next meeting:** Financial reserves update, updates on booking fees, and a work release update.

**Meeting adjourned 9:56 AM. Next meeting will be in August.**