

## **Skagit County Jail Finance Committee October 22, 2020**

### **Meeting minutes**

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. via Goto Virtual meeting. 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) Sheriff's Office- Sheriff Don McDermott |
| 4) Sedro-Woolley- Doug Merriman   | 9) Chair Gregg Davidson                    |
| 5) County- Commissioner Ron Wesen |  |

Also present; Chief Annette Lindquist, Sheriff's Office; Deanna Randall-Secret, Sheriff's Office; Don Marlow, Sheriff's Office; Jamie Bredstrand, Sheriff's Office; Elizabeth Christiansen, Sheriff's Office; Michele Long, Sheriff's Office; Johanna Crane, PFM

Meeting minutes: The minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote with the correction of the bed rates to \$190 and non-partner booking fees to \$175 in the second paragraph.

Bed rates and booking fees: Chief Marlow led the discussion. Handouts were provided. Currently there are two deputies in booking but only one focuses on booking inmates. The other is busy with court paperwork. The booking fee is charged to non-partners only. Our booking fee is one of the highest booking fees in the state. Projection for 2021 based on the calculations provided show a lower booking fee. Booking fee includes hourly wage, medical cost, etc. Bed rate cost is \$145 a day based on actual numbers in 2019. Bed rate does not include hourly wage of booking deputy. San Juan County is the only consistent non-partner. It was suggested to leave rates where there are. Mayor Sexton said we shouldn't charge more than what it actually costs and to be more competitive. Talks are happening again with the City of Oak Harbor. Yakima no longer accepting from the west side. The question is what is the model going to be going forward? It is a juggling act but can be done if it is done scientifically. There was discussion on adopting a methodology for setting booking fees. The City of Burlington's booking fee was discussed and it was decided it would remain at \$60.

**Motion:** It was moved and seconded to leave the booking fees at \$175 for non-partners. There was discussion on developing a policy on setting booking fees and if the rate was lower the jail could be more competitive. The motion was amended to lower the booking fee from \$175 to \$162 for non-partners, seconded. Approved unanimously.

Jail Alternative Program discussion: Chief Marlow led the discussion. A Jail Alternative Program template was provided. Jail staff will send the template to the partners in advance of the first

meeting of the year. Cities will provide the completed form to jail staff in advance of the first meeting of the year.

Draft 2021 budget discussion; Don Marlow led the discussion. There was one addendum due to negotiations and settlement with the Police Guild. \$39,496 is added to the salary line in the budget. There were no other changes. Skagit County is only seeing a 3% decrease in sales tax revenue from 2019 actuals. The County will keep it flat for 2021. With those calculations a recommendation will be given to the Commissioners to add in \$1.4 million in 2020 and \$1.1 million on 2021.

Update from Jail Policy Committee; Commissioner Wesen led the discussion. Next meeting is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the three-year lookback should be a two-year lookback as it relates to the RSA. It will have to go to the Councils so some work to be done there. Booking fees and bed rates should be addressed at the policy level. The Finance Committee should provide a recommendation.

Operations/Booking Report; Chief Marlow provided the update. Population is trending upward 150 this last week, sitting at 145. The bottleneck is in the quarantine area. Completed body scanner training. Should be going online on Monday. Staff is self-reporting regarding Covid.

Chair communication; Chair Davidson led this discussion. Gregg Davidson thanked the Committee for renewing his position as chair. The November and December meetings have been cancelled. 2021 meetings will be late March to early April and September. The jail alternative report will be provided to the partners shortly after February to allow the Cities time to close out their books.

**To-do:** Jamie Bredstrand will poll the Committee on timing for the next meeting.

**To-do:** Jail staff to provide financial information monthly. This includes the revenues and expense reports as well as the sales tax revenue report.