

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in special session on the 12th day of July 2018 at 2pm in the Fiscal Courtroom in Richmond, Ky. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: Roger Barger, Tom Botkin, Larry Combs, and John Tudor were present. Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, Madison County Attorney Assistant Matthew Day, and Madison County Clerk, Kenny Barger were also present.

It being determined a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Judge Taylor asked Pastor Mitch Brown of Mount Pleasant Run Baptist Church to lead with a word of prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the pledge of allegiance.

IN RE: Overview

Collen Chaney, Deputy Judge Executive, addressed the court to explain the current challenges our county is facing. Our overcrowded jail is unsafe for inmates and employees. The 2018 inmate population is 375 prisoners on average with a 75% recidivism rate. There isn't space to sleep inmates, forcing our county to pay to house inmates in other facilities; this year \$350,000 dollars was budgeted. The overcrowded jail is interconnected to Madison County's drug problem. Over 85% of inmates are in for drug-related offenses. Madison County ranks 7th in overdose deaths as of 2016. Employees are struggling to fill positions due to failed drug screenings. In order to address these issues, we must also overcome our financial challenges. Approximately \$9 million dollars are being brought into the county through local taxes. Occupational taxes provide 3.5 million dollars; only way to raise revenue is to increase business in Madison County. Property taxes provide \$4.2 million dollars; the allowable increase would provide \$136,000 dollars more a year. Despite saving \$1 million dollars annually through the current administration, 5 jobs have had to be cut, and programs eliminated to balance the budget. With increasing cost of living, short-term/long-term expenses these issues have to be addressed to maintain stability.

IN RE: Power Point Presentation-Detention Center

Bill Pickering, architect at CMW, addressed the court to present potential plans for expanding the detention center. The original jail was built thirty years ago in 1988 with a one-story expansion built in 1998. All infrastructure, mechanical systems, plumbing, laundry, kitchen, medical, booking and in-take have not been updated since the building was built in 1988. With the proposed expansion and renovation, the kitchen and laundry rooms would be relocated and expanded. The public lobby would be relocated, and the current entrance would be used as the staff entrance. Program space will be included, both multi-purpose and classroom spaces will be used to support educational services as well as others. Currently, our detention center has 186 beds; proposed expansion would include 405 beds. More medium beds will be added. For the first time, the facility will have medical cells and two observation cells for special case need inmates. (suicide concerns). Diversion holding would be offered as well. All in all, the proposed expansion would cost the county \$20 million dollars.

IN RE: Power Point Presentation-Healing Center

Josh Branscum, with Branscum W. Rogers and Mike Smith of Sherman Carter Barnhart addressed the court to propose the healing center as an option. The site is a campus designed around the way Mountain Comp Care program functions. There is a certain process that they follow which is very orderly and structured. However, it's also residential and there will be opportunity to exercise and do activities to engage. The Healing Center would be a 3-step recovery program designed to also promote workforce entry and independent living. Starting in the clinic building, participants would be introduced to the program. Moving up from that you would move to the two buildings known as Phase 1 buildings. Phase 1 will engage participants in basic life skills such as cooking their own meals, doing their own laundry. To keep their physical body in shape, there will be an exercise room included. Phase 2 will offer participants more independence with a suite style room; two people will share a room and four people will share a bathroom. Phase 3 will have one-bedroom units, promoting more independence.

Phase 2 and 3 occupants will use the provided kitchen area to continue cooking their own meals. The total facility square footage is 68,766sqft. The building construction estimate is \$13,500,000 dollars which is \$192.32/sqft. Furnishings and equipment allowances will total \$500,000 dollars. The site is estimated to be \$3,000,000.

Jackie Long, Director of Housing and Grants for Mountain Comprehensive Care, addressed the court to further explain plans for the healing center. Phase 1 will house 32 participants (16 male and 16 female) for a 30-day program. Phase 2 will house 60 participants (30 male and 30 female). Phase 3 will house 30 participants as it is not provided for everyone. At this phase, if participants have a sober place to return home to they may.

IN RE: Power Point Presentation-Funding

John Farris, Founder and President of Commonwealth Economics addressed the court to explain financing options for the county. According to the jail task force, building a new jail would cost the county \$40-\$50 million dollars. A healing center and jail expansion project would cost the county \$33 million with additional savings, such as: operating costs savings of jail, decreased recidivism, quality of life, and increased workforce. The Local Government Premium Tax "LGPT" would allow the county to collect a percentage of insurance premiums. The LGPT option would enable the county to meet an estimated bond payment obligation to cover the cost of both facilities.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Combs stated his dislike for the current situation. People who rent get the same benefits as everybody else. Hoping there would be another option. I was here when we built the first jail and if I had known what I know today, I would've said to add an additional floor. With the healing center, at least there are funds available for that, there's none for our jail. I don't have an answer for it. This will be a tough decision for this court. Hopefully, whatever does happen will be the right decision.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he comes from the law enforcement side with his military experience he understands the hardliner side of it. You do the crime then you do the time, that's just the way it was. However, with enough training, and conversation with other counties; you can't build enough jails to put people through. With the problem that we're faced with, we're limited on options. It doesn't matter if you lock someone up for 5,10,15 or 20 years if they go back to what they were doing...what was the point of that? The big thing with the healing center is that it gives people hope. It's not just a rehab. Participants will get help and have an opportunity to change their life.

Magistrate Tudor stated that things have really changed in the last 20 years. We didn't expect the jail population to be what it is. We didn't expect the opioid epidemic to be rampant like it is. We can't sit by and let it continue. We must take steps to change that. While on the Jail Task Force in 2016, I visited over seven different jails. The only jail that really hit home with me is a little jail in Marion County, KY. They have programs they're working through and they're recidivism is about 29%. That would be great if we could get Madison County to 40-50%. It's not an incarceration problem, it's a mental problem, and it's a health problem and we must deal with it as such. Either we move forward or let it stand still the way it is. I'm one of the first ones that doesn't want to raise taxes but people we're going to have to do something.

Magistrate Barger stated that he had been magistrate for seventeen years; a job which is to get money to pay the bills for this county. Sometimes that means we have to add a tax or a fee on to help pay for it. Magistrates pay out of pocket just like everyone else does; they're not exempt in anyway. We can build a \$100 million-dollar jail but I want to know how we're going to pay for it. I worry about overruns. I'm going to do the job that I was sworn to do.

County Clerk Kenny Barger stated that there is no incentive to work hard, only to re-elected. Commended Judge Taylor and Colleen Chaney for their hard work.

Judge Taylor stated that counties don't have a lot of options to increase revenues; all 120 counties face this problem. Madison County is really a minority among other counties with most having a population under 30,000. Statutes state that any counties under 30,000 may receive fees and percentages of city taxes and occupational taxes. Judge Taylor stated that he wanted to be a leader that invests in solutions. Two things that aren't working are arresting and incarcerating. He commended the Court!

Comments from Audience:

Bob Moody, Madison County citizen, asked the court if they had looked at the ordinances for a possible site for the healing center.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for Tuesday, July 24, 2018 in Richmond at 9:30AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from John Tudor to adjourn, seconded by Tom Botkin. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 1 pm.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE