Members Present: Slaughter, Celentino, Crenshaw, Sebolt, Trubac, Schafer.

Members Absent: Polsdofeer.

Others Present: Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth, Jason Ferguson, Rick Terrill, Terri Thornberry, Tom Shanley, Henry Pittner, Mike Morgan, DuWayne Jones, Teri Morton, Michael Tanis, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Slaughter at 6:00 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room D & E of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2020 LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Polsdofeer.

Additions to the Agenda

3. 9-1-1 Backup Center – Resolution to Approve Fiber Install from Western Tel-com

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that the resolution should have said that it was introduced by the Law & Courts Committee and Finance Committee, instead of by the County Services Committee and Finance Committee.

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. SCHAFER, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Facilities Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize a Contract Amendment with Safety Systems, Inc. for Upgrades to Intrusion and Fire Monitoring Alarm System at the 55th District Court

2. Law and Courts Committee – Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage for Continuing Comprehensive Emergency Telephone Services (911 Services)
3. **9-1-1 Backup Center** – Resolution to Approve Fiber Install from Western Tel-com

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Polsdorfer.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Polsdorfer.

Discussion.

1. **Facilities Department**
   
   b. Justice Complex Quarterly Update (informational item)

Henry Pittner, BKV Group Partner and Design Lead, provided an update on the Justice Complex to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Schafer stated that when you looked at the older building structure, there were no common walls. He asked Mr. Pittner what the rationale was for the continued use of that design element because that added cost to the structure.

Mr. Pittner stated that it was an interesting grid pattern on the right side of the structure. He further stated that he could not tear down the existing structure, so he had to fit the new structure next to the older structure.

Mr. Pittner stated that the Common House was the highest point of the site. He further stated that there was a slope that went down to the Sheriff’s Office, and it was flat near the existing sally port.

Commissioner Schafer asked about the backside of the Ingham County Jail, and the reason why it was not more squared off.

Mr. Pittner stated that there was a vehicle sally port, and space was needed for arrestees to enter and exit. He further stated that the mechanical, electrical, and IT spaces needed to be outside the secured perimeter, so it was necessary for the structure extend outward.

Discussion.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he knew the facility had a large, enclosed yard, but was not being used due to a lack of staff. He asked if a smaller part of that would be attached to this space.

Mr. Pittner stated that the facility would have the basics of recreation, including an indoor-outdoor space within the housing units. He further stated that the philosophy was to bring all of the services to the inmates.

Mr. Pittner stated that there was a possibility of constructing a fenced-area in the back of the jail to access that space.

Mr. Pittner further provided an update on the Justice Complex to the Law & Courts Committee.
Commissioner Crenshaw asked where the secured access point would be on Curtis Street. Mr. Pittner stated that it would be behind the old Animal Control Shelter.

Discussion.

Commissioner Schafer asked how many inmates the Justice Complex would hold.

Mr. Pittner stated that it would have a total capacity of 440 people.

Commissioner Schafer asked what the exit route was when inmates were released.

Mr. Pittner stated that inmates would come to the public side of the jail exit, which was where the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) services were located. He further stated that the busses would service both the Courts and the jail.

Commissioner Schafer asked if CATA busses were called when an inmate was released.

Mr. Pittner stated that the buses ran on a regular schedule.

Discussion.

Tom Shanley, Kramer Management Group Project Director, provided an update on the Justice Complex to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Celentino asked if Mr. Pittner could explain the first construction activity, because as he looked at the construction document, it would be completed by August 15, 2020, but construction activity would start the day before.

Mr. Pittner stated that his team had already been putting together the construction documents for the First Phase, which was moving out of the vehicle maintenance building into the Co-Gen building, and that required minimal work. He further stated that his team had completed the demolition drawings for the vehicle maintenance building, and so this phase included more or less preparation work.

Discussion.

Commissioner Schafer asked if he thought they would stay within budget.

Mr. Shanley stated yes. He further stated that, in terms of budget, his team had communicated what their options were as they developed the design, and so they understood their target.

Mr. Shanley stated that, as his team received pricing from their Construction Manager, they would start to see where the budget aligned.
Commissioner Schafer stated that it was imperative that the Justice Complex was built right. He further stated the Commissioners had a lot of projects where the budget got tight, things were left out, and a lot of money was spent to add or make corrections. Mr. Shanley stated that he agreed.

Commissioner Schafer stated that if that occurred, to come before the Law & Courts Committee.

Mr. Shanley stated that that would be one of their primary focuses, to stay on-time budget wise.

Scott Wrigglesworth, Ingham County Sheriff, stated that he had met with Correctional Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS), the Health Department for Jail Medical, and the Public Defender's office to show them how they had designed their access into the building to meet with inmates. He further stated that anyone who would have a footprint inside the facility, he had garnered their input in how it should be designed, to positive results.

Sheriff Wrigglesworth stated that the building was designed for the inmates to come to them, instead of them going to the inmates. He further stated that the building was being designed to be as functional as possible.

Commissioner Schafer stated that, for example the 9-1-1 Center, the budget had gotten tight, and so the Commissioners had to return to the project and fix the problems after the fact.

Mr. Shanley stated he believed his team had an advantage because they were keeping a running tally of things, and could make decisions in real-time to stay within budget.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that he invited Sheriff Wrigglesworth to provide his thoughts on the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration report, given the fact that the Law & Courts Committee was talking about the new Justice Complex.

Sheriff Wrigglesworth discussed the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration report and how it related to the Justice Complex to the Law & Courts Committee.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he appreciated his assessment of the report. He further stated that he had read an article in the Detroit News and found that if a majority of the reforms were implemented, their jail population would decrease a third or a half.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that while he knew that Detroit's operation was larger than Ingham County's operation, he was concerned that if their estimate was that a third or a half of their jail population would decrease, he wondered how that impacted Ingham County's operation.

Sheriff Wrigglesworth stated that he did not know how their jail population compared to Ingham County's existing facility, how they used to be able to hold 660 and now they could hold 440. He further stated that he did know if a further decrease would happen, as the jail needed to prepare for 5, 10 or 20 years in the future, long after they were involved in County processes.
Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that he would be much more comfortable having 300 people in jail 5 years from now rather than 450 people in jail being overcrowded, and having to come back to the Commissioners in 10 years and ask to build a satellite office at the Sheriff’s Department. He further stated that, if they had to come before the Commissioners in 10 years, it would cost more due to increased staff.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that he was not disputing Sheriff Wriggelsworth’s assessment, but he was saying that that was what the Detroit News said could possibly happen, and the County needed to be prepared for empty beds in the jail.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that he understood that some of the Commissioners were against contracting, and that was perilous in nature sometimes. He further stated that he believed that State of Michigan would continue to close prisons, and so there could be opportunities down the road to house more state prisoners.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth further stated that he recently read an article from New York, and they were rethinking their pretrial release policies because that had so many people reoffend that were out on PR bonds, and so that had been in process for the last 3 years. He further stated that he thought this would put the County in a good position for the next couple decades.

Commissioner Schafer asked, when the Ingham County Youth Center was being built, there were a lot of discussions about 42 beds, and some Commissioners had announced 24 beds.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that the Youth Center was full every day.

Commissioner Schafer stated that a lot more people would need to go to the Youth Center for a variety of reasons as society had changed.

Discussion.

Jason Ferguson, Chief Deputy Sheriff, stated that he remembered the days when the Youth Center had the 600+ capacity, and would approach 700 people, and would house inmates all over the gym floor, which created a ton of man power to access who could leave. He further stated that he agreed with Sheriff Wriggelsworth in terms of the flexibility that the Justice Complex would create using the same staff.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he wondered if they were back in the days before the 2000 Juvenile Justice millage, which was intended to address the overcrowding. He asked if the Youth Center was at the overcrowding stage.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that the Youth Center was full every day and turned fresh arrests away weekly.

Commissioner Celentino stated that, in the future, they could put together a report on that issue. He stated that he did now know that it had gotten to that point.
Chairperson Slaughter stated that there had been a presentation last year from Scott LeRoy, Deputy Court Administrator, to talk about potential upgrades.

Discussion.

Teri Morton stated that there was a tentative plan to increase the size of the Youth Center.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that, to keep in mind, that they had 16 and 17 year-olds who were being housed at the facility when they got waived up on their crimes.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that, with respect to the Sheriff’s Office, they had thousands of man-hours into this project. He further stated that he had 16 or 17 people on a Friday with a set of eyes making sure that the Justice Complex was as functional as possible.

Sheriff Wriggelsworth stated that they were investing significant time and work with their partners into this project to be sure that it was built correctly.

Discussion.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that appreciated all of the attention to details. He further stated that the discussions related to the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration report would be happening for quite some time, and he appreciated Sheriff Wriggelsworth’s input.

Discussion.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Heidi Hall, an out-of-state resident, stated that in September 2018, her children were kidnapped across state lines as a result of systematic due process violations in the Juvenile Court system. She further stated when parents initiated proceedings, they were supposed to receive a 72 hours-notice, but she did not receive one.

Ms. Hall stated that she did not receive a notice that they were going to remove her children. She further stated that she received an order that they were going to try to do an order of cooperation with an investigation, but that there was no statute that allowed them to do such an order.

Ms. Hall stated that they needed to finish their investigation before they could file such a petition. She further stated that they were not following statute and initiating proceedings.

Ms. Hall stated that they were doing this for both the Juvenile Delinquency cases and the Children’s Protective Services (CPS) cases. She further stated that, in her case, they initiated proceedings 24 minutes after they filed a petition.
Ms. Hall stated that the case worker testified and told her that she was going to go to Court to file this order, and she told the case worker that she and her husband needed to be served.

Ms. Hall stated that the Referee, and the Juvenile Register and the Magistrates, were all acting in excess of their statutory duties. She further stated that she was an out-of-state resident.

Discussion.

Ms. Hall stated that the Referee signed off on what CPS wanted, and then four days later, a petition was filed for removal. She further stated that they went to another judge, but the Referee cannot issue a court order.

Ms. Hall stated that she lied to another judge to get a removal order. She further stated that they executed across state lines.

Ms. Hall stated that it did not have a judge’s signature on it, and it only had electronic initials. She further stated that state law required that an order be filed by the next business day, for an electronic order to be valid, but it was not in the Court file.

Ms. Hall stated that she could not get law enforcement to take the report. She further stated that she had forwarded it to the Investigative Department and the Sheriff’s Department.

Chairperson Slaughter asked Ms. Hall to address her comments to the Commissioners.

Ms. Hall stated that most of this would not have happened had if there was proper representation, because the Commissioners were authorizing expenditures for Court-appointed lawyers that represented the County’s interests, not the parents.

Discussion.

Chairperson Slaughter stated that Ms. Morton had taken notes and would follow up with Ms. Hall’s concerns.

Discussion.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD