

Administrative and Finance Joint Meeting Minutes
Administrative and Finance/Public Safety
October 16, 2008
12:00 p.m.

Called to order by Chairman West at 12:00 p.m.

Present Kirsenlohr, Klingforth, Ward, Loken, James. Excused Kotlowski, Johnson.

Also present, McGhee, Petkovsek, Albert, Ledford, James, Renner, July, Thibodeau.

Motioned by Klingforth/Sebastiani to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The 2008 budget has \$102,000 in it for the digital voice recording system and video conferencing. Ron Ledford was present in behalf of the judge. The reason for the delay in the project was to determine if it was the right thing to do, who will support the equipment, who we will call when there may be a problem, if there is a viable return on the system. Mixing prisoner popularity with citizen popularity increases risks, picking up prisoners, and/or patients has a liability associated with it. If a person is injured during transport, the county is liable. Sebastiani indicated the reason for the meeting was to make sure everyone was in agreement, communicating and on board. Not to determine if we were moving forward. The committee was in mutual agreement to move forward and contact the vendor. Judge Pollex said it was very difficult to identify the number of potential uses that were out there. Maybe this should be taken up at a department head meeting for discussion. He said the system was comparable to the one at Health and Human Services, Barb and Jack both agreed. It can be used for training sessions; video conferencing could be used for seminars for continuing education. Part of the system will be in the courtroom. The Supreme Court lays out when it can be used. There are very clear directions on this matter. This is an evolving technology that is the reason we did not jump on board right away. The county can save on transportation costs and time. James spoke of depositions, court hearings, and violation of people rights. Judge Pollex explained the Supreme Court rules address all the concerns. The need to have attorneys speak, confidentiality issues with clients, there are requirements that must be met. There are two areas of difficulties one that deal with attorney conferring with their client in a confidential way and the ability to view everything that is taking place in the court room. However the judge is in agreement with moving forward. Digital Audio Recording at times will be used in lieu of a court reporter, this also carries some difficulties, but the trend is clear. Albert indicated he is involved in civil matters the main affect for him is chapter 51 detentions, which requires two transport officers to move someone. Implementation of this would cut out some of the transports.

Sebastiani would like to know if there is a maintenance contract, monthly charge or fees. Barb indicated the maintenance fee would be \$10,000 per year along with some phone costs. In three years there should be a return on the investment. The costs are currently in the Circuit Courts budget; however we may apply some fund balance from Clerk of Courts. Ward said that everyone should work together and be a team. McGhee said she had questions on the technology side regarding broadband. The judge said there are many pitfalls we are being cautious. The question was asked about bidding requirements. Ledford did not think this needed to be bid out. Corporation Counsel indicated that McGhee should be involved in the contract language. Ledford should be working with McGhee for specifications on the network, T1, T2, T3, infrastructure, etc. Dehmlow said if we start it we better stay with it. Sheriff Renner said he is totally for it and has no objections he backs the system. Thibodeau states he is the fly in the ointment because he is not sure this is what we need. He would like someone to show him the savings, to follow up on usages, should we spend \$90,000 on this or fix the leaky roof? We need to prioritize, identify exactly what we would use this for, identify the number of case, and the savings in transports. We should be certain that we will be

saving money. What are the numbers? What are the costs versus the advantages. I am on the fence and thought the judge was too. He called surrounding counties Wood, Sauk and Juneau and their main uses are bail hearings for people who are in jail, and inmates. When there is a storm or any lightening the system goes down. It is not used privately as of yet. Prisoners from state institutions don't use it much. We should think of all the liabilities we have as a county. We will still need to do transports, they will not be eliminated. Thibodeau has concerns related to juveniles, mental health, chapter 9, and the fact that defendants can object to the use of video conferencing. July spoke of liabilities, costs for transports, the use of sworn officers, expert testimonies the balancing act the sheriff department must use. What one incident could cost the county? He believes the county would re coup their money in a 2 – 3 year period. Thibodeau reaffirmed the fact we will still have transports and there are liabilities associated with them. James questioned the life of the technology and whether it would be out dated in 3 years. Ledford indicated with periodic up grades the life of the system would be 6 years, in all practicality.

Petkovsek/Albert left.

Judge Pollex acknowledged Thibodeau's concerns in addition to the associated costs. Ward referred to the fact that defendants have the right to object to the use of video conferencing. Judge Pollex would need to review this, however; believes to a degree they can object.

Petkovsek present.

Petkovsek wanted to know if it was too late to proceed in the current year. Would they be able to move forward and finish up in the 2008 year? Ledford feels this can be done. Thibodeau referred to Supreme Court ruling, talked about a separate and/or private voice communication facility, in addition to section 885.60 of the state stats where defendants can object.

Albert present.

West stated the money was put in the budget, the committee believes this is for a good cause this was a meeting to get everyone together and on board.

Motioned by Ward/Sebastiani to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Phillippi
Recording Secretary