

## **Jail Stakeholders Workgroup Meeting**

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

### **Members Present:**

Kelli Carroll, Chair	Scott Korthuis
Jack Hovenier	Mark Holst
Gene Knutson	Barry Buchanan
Kelli Linville	Todd Donovan
Jack Louws	April Barker (Proxy for Pinky Vargas)
H. Hill Cummings	Wendy Jones (Proxy for Bill Elfo)

### **Members Absent:**

Bill Elfo  
Cliff Cook  
Pinky Vargas  
Nickolaus Lewis  
Keith Olson

The meeting was opened by Chair Kelli Carroll at 3:30 PM. Introductions were made around the room.

All members agreed to the Consensus Decision Making Model presented by the Chair.

**Scheduling:** Some members can come only on Thursdays; others can come any day but Thursdays. We will try to accommodate the preponderance of members. If you would like to call in via conference call, please let Marie Marchand know in advance. If that technology is available in the particular room that is scheduled, we will do our best to make that happen. Marie will send out another scheduling poll for the December and January meetings. In terms of location of the meetings, the Chair asked the Committee if they want to have it in other locations throughout the County. Mayor Korthuis said we could have a meeting in Lynden City Hall Council Chambers. If you have things for the packet, please email them to Kelli Carroll and Marie Marchand by the Monday before the meeting.

**Designee and Proxy:** Please clarify with Kelli Carroll and Marie if you choose to have someone sit in for you on occasion when necessary. The person that you choose should reflect the *member's* viewpoint when voting.

**Facilitator:** The Chair stated that she needs help with this. The County Council could make this happen. Barry Buchanan will work with Jack Louws on that.

**Guest Presenters:** Brian Heinrich, Deputy Administrator, City of Bellingham; and Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive, Whatcom County, gave a presentation on the history of the Jail Facility Use Agreement (JFUA). They went over three documents: 1) 2015 County JFUA; 2) September 8<sup>th</sup> Letter from the City of Bellingham to Jack Louws; 3) October 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter from Jack Louws to the City of Bellingham.

In February 2015, this was presented to all Mayors. The proposal was for a .2% sales tax, which equaled \$7.6 million starting in 2019 with 60% going to the County and 40% going to the cities. This was for a 521-bed facility costing \$97 million with a bond over 30 years at a 5% interest rate. City of Bellingham and Whatcom County were experiencing disagreement over the project and financing details, so the JFUA was written so that the jail would be sized accordingly (i.e., fewer than 521 beds if Bellingham did not sign on).

Regarding the Division Street facility, the County may sell or transfer that, but, if so, will use the proceeds for behavioral health. Now we want to try to invest additional money into building the crisis triage facility capacity.

The County determined it needed \$1.7 million from the cities' portion to pay the bond.

Tribes are a big user. If we build a bigger jail, will the tribes use it?

Chief Wendy Jones: Tribal family members are concerned about having family members in the Yakima jail.

Another concern is that the number of felonies is going up.

Brian Heinrich: September 8<sup>th</sup> Letter from Bellingham: Maintaining the ability to meet our own public safety needs is important. The one-tenth forecloses a city's ability to go to the taxpayers for its own public safety needs.

Chief Wendy Jones: The booking process is the most expensive and time-consuming part of the jailing process.

The group "bookmarked" this for a small group discussion: "Operational Cost Analysis, Percentage of Capital Contributions."

Everyone agreed that a facility is needed.

Everyone agreed to pursue sales tax. However, April Barker (proxy for Pinky Vargas) has to look into it more as she believes that sales tax is regressive.

Jack Louws proposes that City of Bellingham put a proposal together. Bellingham will put together a proposal and bring it back to the group.

Kelli Carroll asked for a jail options matrix that outlines the September and October letters (that are in the packet) in grid fashion. Kelli Carroll, Tyler, and Brian will have a conference call regarding the "all in" proposal. For our next meeting, we will have this options document.

There are two general approaches to be examined: an "all-in" method that would turn all of the revenue over to the County with no or limited additional contributions from cities; and, a restructured sales tax proposal that modifies the previous sales tax approach.

What other options are relevant for discussion? We are holding off on small groups.

Timeline for the group's charge: End of February; draft by January sessions

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period and no comment was offered.

Adjourned at 5:53 PM

**Next Scheduled Meetings:**

Thursday, November 3, 2016	3:30 PM Mayor's Boardroom, Bellingham City Hall
Thursday, November 17, 2016	3:30 PM Mayor's Boardroom, Bellingham City Hall

Meeting Summary Submitted By:

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Marie Marchand  
Legislative Assistant  
City of Bellingham

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November 3, 2016