

# MEETING MINUTES

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

MARCH 13 , 2014 - 3:30 PM

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD CHAMBERS**  
304 E. Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI 48843

## JAIL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

JUDGE BRENNAN

COMM. DOMAS

CC ADMIN. EVANS

COMM. LAWRENCE

**COMM. PARKER**

OTHERS:  
DAVID STOKER  
MIKE MURPHY  
COMM. CAROL GRIFFITH

JEFF LEVEQUE  
BELINDA M. PETERS  
MATT BACHELOR, US MARSHALL

TOM CREMONTE  
CINDY CATANACH  
JIM FOGLER, US MARSHALL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by: **COMM. DON PARKER AT 3:34 PM.**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES OF MEETING DATED MARCH 5, 2014:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS PRESENTED.**  
**MOVED BY: DOMAS / SECONDED BY: LAWRENCE**  
**ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**  
**MOVED BY: LAWRENCE / SECONDED BY: DOMAS**  
**ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

4. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None.**

5. **FEDERAL INMATE DISCUSSION:**

- Comm. Parker greeted those present and gave an overview of looking to improve our jail and expand to hold in the mid 400 for beds. Due to the central location of Livingston County we are equal distance from large nearby cities such as Saginaw, Bay City, Lansing, Ann Arbor, etc. Paperwork has begun to start the process with Livingston County. Currently, the Marshall's office realizes that we do not have enough bed space now, but would like to start off with a few inmates (2 or 3) to get used to the procedures. By having a few inmates come into our system now will enable our Deputies and staff to get used to the transport, billing, etc. Previously, Tom has explained to the board the procedures with the per diem rates. Transportation door to door service is ideal for US Marshalls.

Some sample numbers were discussed knowing that medical fees will be totally separate. The Marshall's office has found that if the county doesn't utilize transportation agreement it will limit the amount of inmates. Our current facility has been toured and gone over and at this time the facility does meet standards of the Marshall's Office. They have also reviewed the plans for the upgrades or improvements to the facility and those also meet their standards. The Marshall's office would like to start as soon as possible to get everyone acclimated. The Federal Inmates don't need any special needs or requirements. They can be with general population. There will not be a time limit on contract, either party can leave at time. They have found that typically an inmate will be in the facility for approximately about 6 months, after sentencing inmates go to next facility. If inmate is acquitted, can be released from court. The US Marshalls office has confidence in the sheriff's department in being able to classify and house any type of inmate. We do have a vehicle (prison transport van) that has separators in it which would enable our deputies to segregate males/females or levels. Tom questioned if inmate has mental issues, can transport to another facility to get them stabilized? The Marshall's office stated that they would work with the Sheriff's office to resolve the situation. In regards to billing – they request that a facility send an invoice in dated March 1 from February housing. Payment is usually within 30 days. The Marshall's office will need an invoice by 10 business days after month end. If our facility is at capacity and we need to decrease our federal inmate population, they can do but need notice. However, we might find that sometimes it will be more advantageous to ship out our inmates. The question was asked "Is the Sheriff's Department on board with this relationship?" Mike Murphy spoke to the fact that Sheriff Bezotte although not present is on board with this relationship with the US Marshalls. Every sheriff facility Tom has spoken with loves the agreements with the US Marshall's all the counties love the program and they all wish that they could take more inmates.

## 6. FINANCE OPTIONS:

- Dave Stoker to review options of financing of approximately \$2.3 million. Concept wise you would eliminate the Tax Allocation Board and create a fixed millege. If had a set millege then funds could be used in which can be used in any department to fund whatever the project is. If set a fixed millege this could even out each of the school districts. You will have more consistency and most residence like the fact that it is fixed and done. We are a rare county of having a tax allocation board.
- Another option – county wide millege, could be as broad or specific whichever way you want to do it. If you do a limitation of a fixed millege or specific project – gives purpose for residents to focus on.
- Local way to fund this – one possible option to contract or agree with the City of Howell Police Department. Mike Murphy stated that the sheriff would never want to have a millege with the City of Howell Police Department and have them deputized in order to make the millege work and pay back the City of Howell.
- Charge inmates for their cost of housing them. We do it now but have a difficult time having them to pay. Some counties throw the costs onto the probation. Our judges don't do this. You can only charge an inmate once they are sentenced. If in jail for one year and they are found not guilty you cannot charge the inmate for that year. Vendor recommended we stay at \$30 per day which is less than most counties but we are re-couping about half of the charges from inmates.
- The question was asked, If jail is expanded will courts be able to fill it? Mike Murphy answered this question with the fact that history shows that we waited too long to do jail expansion in 1996. Overcrowd release, etc. because back then we simply were housing inmates. Today that is not the issue. We don't have excessive overcrowding, issues have changed and they are more along the lines with segregation cells for the different levels of inmates, i.e. minimum, maximum, etc. and women population has increased. If it was five years ago, yes, can blame the issues on the judges. Now, you can rarely blame on judges as they have worked with the jail to minimize these issues. They are using better discretion and it is being found that the need is with segregation of inmates.

- Mike Murphy stated that he would like to do the maximum allowed. Currently, the Sheriff sets capacity. The Sheriff can say to judges if we have overcrowding will release our inmates. Mike has not had this discussion with Sheriff yet but thinks he can sell. With this new expansion he feels that the new facility will last approximately 15 to 20 years. He stated that he felt we could definitely allocate 40 beds for US Marshall. Administration is basing their decisions with IRS considerations. Mike Murphy stated that he would like to have more inmates right away. Currently the Federal detention center has to find beds for approximately 260 inmates in next few months. We are the best option for them now. Mike thought we can get more inmates if we want them.
- Opportunity here with discussion with Judges during the trial period and see how it goes. Could have the US Marshall give us 75 beds to rent out for first 3 years to then after 5 years go to 50. We do have ability to short term to lease beds with other counties.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Next meeting: March 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:14 PM.  
MOVED BY: LAWRENCE / SECONDED BY: DOMAS  
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully Submitted

**KELLI HAWORTH**  
RECORDING SECRETARY