

**JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL SECOND PUBLIC HEARING  
OCTOBER 2, 2018 6 P.M.**

All members present.

The meeting opened with Mike Kelley leading the pledge to the flag.

Mike Kelley, President of the Council, called the meeting to order with a welcome and stating the purpose of the meeting was to consider an ordinance imposing a new local income tax rate.

Josh Yeager made a motion to approve prior minutes; Larry Maschino seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Kelley informed the audience of the agenda and introduced Eric Ratts, Principal Architect for the jail project and representing DLZ Indiana, LLC.

Mr. Ratts started out with the 2017 Indiana Annual Jail report that showed Jennings County Jail as number One in overcrowding percent wise in the State. This chart represents data collected by the Department of Corrections from all the counties in Indiana except one that does not have a jail. The chart had the top 19 in the State listed. Decatur County was #2 and they have broke ground for a new jail.

Next was Dan Zuerner with Garmong Construction who was contracted to be the Construction Manager for the jail project. Mr. Zuerner presented a timeline that started back on October 11, 2011 with a feasibility study by DLZ relative to expanding the existing jail and conducting minimal interior renovation. Then on August 22, 2016 DLZ presented an update feasibility study to the expansion/renovation of the existing jail and/or the construction of a new jail. On January 24, 2017 DLZ presented its feasibility study report at the request of the Commissioners, Sheriff and Council. In March of 2017 Mr. Zuerner was engaged as the County's Project Development Consultant/Construction Manger. In April of 2017 the newly appointed Jail Committee which consisted of two Council members, one Commissioner, County Attorney met for the first time. Mr. Zuerner completed his initial review of the existing jail conditions, operating issues and opportunities, and a needs assessment with Sheriff Driver and presented his findings to the Jail Committee. In May 2017 began the search for a Project Financial Advisor and Project Designer. The County received proposals from RQAW, Elevatus and DLZ for project designer. Design firms are interviewed with presentations and scored independently by the committee members with DLZ coring the highest on a qualitative basis. DLZ is selected based upon merit.

August 22, 2017 a public forum was held at the Jennings County High School Auditorium where DLZ presented a look at a possible jail design.

Mr. Zuerner said next the search for a site for the new jail began with several sites being listed which totaled around ten. Now we are in March of 2018 and again the Commissioners and Council asked the consultant team to look at the feasibility of renovating and expanding the existing jail. So once again members met, walked through the current jail and reviewed all adjacent properties looking at the feasibility of renovating and expanding the existing jail. DLZ completes a programming assessment, initial schematic design and drafts a scope of work associated such an approach. DLZ issues a formal report to the jail committee. Rick Hall, attorney for the project, advises that HB1263 has been enacted paving the way forward for the County to receive a special LIT authorization to facilitate the funding of the Jail Project. Special tax may not be utilized for maintenance and/or operations.

May 2018 the commissioners authorize surveys and appraisals of the Rust farm site. In June 2018 DLZ presents updated design timeline based upon 9-1-18 notice to proceed from Commissioners. Financial Advisor, Jeff Peters, issues LIT funding scenarios to County officials for review and discussion. On July 10, 2018 there was a joint meeting of the Commissioners and Council to discuss funding of the project. On July 26, 2018 Rick Hall presented the results of the Regional Jail Study. No surrounding county was interested in a regional jail. September 2018 DLZ/Garmong provided the County with an estimate of the needed water/sewer capacity to operate the proposed new jail. The City Council brought forth a proposal for the County to consider.

September 18, 2018 a public hearing was scheduled at 6 p.m. in the Commissioner meeting room at the Government Center. Mr. Garmong wanted to stress how much time has been used to look at every possibility to alleviate the overcrowding at the jail.

Judge John Webster came to address the public. Judge Webster stated he has been asked numerous times why the jail is overcrowded and his perspective is Meth, Heroin and RX use and misuse and the State pushing back inmates to the counties. People ask Judge Webster about probation and he shared these statistics. There are presently 503 people on Circuit Probation, 378 on Superior Probation and 62 in Home Detention program. As of Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> the population at the jail was down to 138 but Judge Webster doesn't feel that it will stay down.

The meeting was then opened up for Public input and several people stood and voiced opinions for and against the jail. Roger Taylor, Charles Weber, Brad Bender, Ruth Bosch, Brandi Richmond, Jeff Gee, Tina Ellis, Bob Itell and Larry Greathouse all stated their concerns or endorsement for the jail project.

Dave Hall a City Councilman in Jackson County stood and spoke about the Work Release Center Project they are working on and hope to be able to help Jennings County also. Dave Woodall asked Mr. Hall to

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call and get on the Council's agenda for a regular meeting and to bring information that can be reviewed and discussed.

Jeff Peters, Financial Advisor, presented the explanation of rate necessary to finance the \$28 million dollar project.

At 7:55 p.m. the Public hearing closed.

Rick Hall presented the two Ordinances that were to be considered for adoption. The one Ordinance included a .20% rate for the purpose of maintaining a Correctional Facility and/or Rehabilitation Facility and added to the expenditure rate reducing the public safety rate .22%. The other ordinance is for a new local income tax rate of .65% for the sole purpose of construction for a new jail. This ordinance would not decrease any rate for public safety. This would make the new rate for the county local income tax 3.15% which previously had been 2.50%.

After much discussion, Larry Maschino made the motion to accept the Ordinance imposing a new local income tax of .65%; Tony Eder seconded the motion. With a vote of 4 Yes and 3 No the motion passed.

Larry Maschino made the motion to adjourn; Dave Woodall seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Attest:

*Kay Sue Varice*

Kay Sue Varice, Auditor

*Mike Kelley*

Mike Kelley, President

*Dave Woodall*

Dave Woodall, Vice-President

*Howard Malcomb*

Howard Malcomb

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Paul Belding



Tony Eder



Larry Maschino

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Josh Yeager