

Martin County Board of Commissioners
Work Session
May 1, 2018

The work session was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Mahoney. Those present were Commissioners Schmidtke, Smith, Mahoney, Belgard, and Flohrs. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Jason Sorensen, Sentinel Newspaper, Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, Corey Klanderud, Chief Deputy Martin County Sheriff's Office, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Mandy Fletcher, Superintendent/Principal Granada Huntley East Chain (GHEC) Schools, Bryan Nowicki, Chair GHEC School Board, and Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant.

By consensus, approve the agenda for the May 1, 2018, Board Work Session.

Mahoney introduced agenda item 4.4 Update on Proposed Garage Facility.

Belgard noted he has not yet received local design concept option for the proposed garage facility. Therefore, there is nothing new to report.

Mahoney introduced agenda item 4.1 Discuss Possible Partnership to hire Deputy as School Resource Officer with Granada Huntley East Chain School District.

Corey Klanderud, Chief Deputy Martin County Sheriff's Office, was present and noted we've been contacted by the GHEC School District and have met with them a few times to talk about the possibility of partnering with GHEC to hire a deputy as a School Resource Officer. We came to the Martin County Personnel Committee and talked about it and now we're bringing it to the work session so everybody can hear what's going on and give input into the process.

Klanderud went on to note what we've been talking about doing is creating a position for the schools and GHEC and putting a deputy in there for a full time position. That deputy, in the off season or out of school season, would be assigned back to our patrol division to assist with our summer schedule. But, during the school year the prime responsibility would be for assignment to the school and then obviously with whatever contract is worked out would also support on major things that occur during the time they are working; but would be primarily a school related position during the school year, Monday through Friday, normal school day hours like a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule for an 8 hour day with schedule flexibility for extracurricular activities outside of the normal school day. Contract language with our Union would allow that as long as we plan an appropriate amount of time in advance.

Klanderud also noted one of the pages in the packet is a financial page. The cost to get a new person on the road, including salary and benefits, some training hours, uniforms, gas and a vehicle, and the basic equipment, is estimated at \$103,000. The same equipment and training would be required (for a School Resource Officer) because in the Sheriff's Office we cover such a big area that we have take home squads and every deputy has the same equipment to do the same job and so even though this one would be assigned in the school they would still need the same outfitting to do the job anywhere that is necessary. Also, when the school is not in session

during the school year, that person would still be road support depending on their case load. There are some juvenile investigations that come along with the School Resource Officer position as well whether it be a child protection type of investigation or whatever it might be so it would all be dependent on whatever active cases are going on at the time. So the \$103,000 would be our minimum cost and a conservative number.

Klanderud continued in trying to explain some of the different roles the School Resource Officer position would entail a lot of it comes into defining it in three different roles kind of like being not only a law enforcement officer there to handle anything in the criminal world but a duty would also come in to more of a counselor type role because a lot of it is building relationships with a kid and it might not be on a criminal matter...it might be on anything and building that relationship as more of an adult counselor with the youth as well is a big part of it and also the education part of it. A good portion of that job is not only the youth in the school but the staff as well as to whether it is safety things or just the law in general and building those relationships are a big part of it. In the time that we have spent in the different schools you can definitely see those relationships building in short amounts of time and so I think that if we had somebody there we would definitely see some improvement in that area. That kind of brings us up to speed of where we have been through already.

Mandy Fletcher, Superintendent/Principal Granada Huntley East Chain (GHEC) Schools, noted I know that one of the concerns were some of the other districts in the county too would if we did this in GHEC what would the other school districts expect in terms of service and personnel in their buildings and so I have been in contact with all superintendents in the Martin County School Districts and GHEC is the only district that does not have a city police department presence in their schools. Truman is completely satisfied with their level of service from their town police department and their priority list is actually beefing up security and revamping their facility. Just because of where we're at with society today we need a safe and secure building foremost and GHEC has that and then the next step would be having a school resource officer in place. Martin County West again is very satisfied with the level of service from all of their area city police departments and then Fairmont of course has a school resource officer with the city. Martin Luther was also invited to the meeting that we had with area superintendents and board members and they too need to take a look at their facility. So the next step for us where we're at with our district is we've spent a lot of years getting professional development on what it takes to reach a child today and unfortunately or fortunately however you look at it, it's an interagency approach that we need to be able to impact these kids and reach them and unfortunately we cannot do that alone as a school district because they come with many more issues today and we rely heavily on county resources and area relationships with Human Services and with local law enforcement, to be able to educate our kids because they're coming with so much more today and there are services that we as a school district cannot provide. Just a couple months ago we had received a threat at school and we worked very closely and very heavily with Martin County Law Enforcement and we're thankful that we have access to them. But I think we could have taken a much more proactive approach had we had somebody in the building already working with us to be developing those relationships. It is amazing what kids will share with you when they have a relationship and trust you and that's probably in my opinion the most important reason to have a school resource officer in place.

Mahoney inquired how soon you would need a decision on this.

Fletcher answered what we'd really like is to start the planning process to implement a school resource officer for the 2018-2019 school year and work in conjunction with law enforcement with some of the things that I know Corey (Klanderud) touched on earlier about the specifics and hours and duties and things like that and then of course there would be a little of rearranging of offices and locations so there's a little bit of planning that comes into it from a school district perspective but the sooner the better but I understand these things take time too so from a school district standpoint we're planning and have done the research with the budget on our end so it is something that we are confident that we are able to do and need and want.

Belgard inquired about what numbers were used. Were you willing to do the 75% versus the 50%? I know when we were talking Fairmont's numbers were 50%-50%.

Fletcher noted we're hoping for 50%-50%. We're going off of the \$120,000.

Klanderud noted when we first met I gave the \$120,000 because all I did was took the entire line items for my deputies and divided it by the total amount of deputies so you got that \$120,000 number so that's the first number that I provided to GHEC and that's what we started with. The next time we met I kind of dug in and broke it out a little bit to see if there was different ways that we could make this work.

Higgins inquired are you using 2018 numbers or 2017 numbers because we've adjusted their wages quite a bit under contract so there's going to be a difference in cost per hour.

Klanderud answered not 2018. That's one thing that I also looked at there is the difference in the 2017 numbers that \$129,000 number is taken off an average of all the deputies and so we have a large percentage who are 10 year plus deputies and so that drives the salary number higher. The \$103,000 number is taken off of a new hire salary and so that's quite a bit of difference in salary and so that number on the salary I believe a 2018 entry level salary number. It just kind of depends on how we go about it...if we put a new hire in there or if it would be more beneficial to put somebody who's already been here in that position.

Belgard inquired but the cost to the County would be the cost of the new hire.

Klanderud answered correct.

Schmidtke noted the dollar amount matters...it matters but it doesn't matter because if that money spent saves one person's life that was really cheap. But on the other hand even though we know of no one else in Martin County...none of the other schools are interested I guarantee you once we do one for GHEC or whatever town it is then the constituents, the residents, are going to say if they got it we need it and they'll be at the school board meetings until they get one (School Resource Officer). So then if we're paying \$60,000 now its times six roughly...do we think our taxpayers are willing to do that? Are they willing to have that much more levy put on the county taxpayers? If we did this for GHEC there's a lot of people out this way and your way that are paying for GHEC's School Resource Officer that have no kids or no ties to GHEC.

Flohers noted ironically I've been talking to some of my people that are way out and I told them GHEC wants a School Resource Officer...what do you think of using your tax dollars to pay over there. They didn't care. And I told them we've got 9 other schools and what if they all want a school resource officer. And they said that's the way it is. Society has changed.

Belgard noted we don't hear much from the state legislature but this was a hot item about a month ago. They were talking about appropriating \$50 million dollars for this and then divvying it out so I don't know if you're better to have one in place and then they just pick it up (the cost); or if you don't have one in place you're better off.

Schmidtke noted I don't have a problem supporting it I just know that it will come. No matter what the school board is saying they're going to get pressure from the parents and we'll see what happens.

Flohers noted the schools are willing to pick up a substantial part you know.

Belgard noted that will be something that we'll have to determine here...is it going to be 50% or is it going to be 75%. We need to figure that out. Of course we haven't budgeted anything for this and our year doesn't start again until January 1st. I know you're going to have to find that money some place and obviously we're going to have to too. So it's a question about if we would decide to do it, it's about a \$26,000 question.

Higgins noted I think it is worth considering. If it's about other constituents paying for another school district if they pay their full bill that's one thing, but the other thing that the Board needs to be aware of is if you start putting on these extra officers, need to ask how much more personnel do we need in our Sheriff's Office. You could be at a point to where you'd add four or five more for summer help...then you've got extra officers.

Klanderud noted we've talked about that at some of our meetings too and that is...I would love to have that problem of having extra people that we would have to find assignments for but I really think in our summer time not only just schedule filling with vacations and people gone but with our narcotics, our drug task force stuff that we're part of...there's just so many more things that we could do if we had more time and personnel. Like I said I would love to have the challenge of trying to find work to keep them all busy...I don't see that as being a problem. I think one or two would be easy...I think four would challenge me a little bit but I'm willing to take that challenge.

Mahoney inquired you've already got your money doubled from the state this year from \$11,000 up to \$22,000.

Fletcher answered yes, double it did...it's not a great amount but it went from \$10,600 to \$22,500 should the legislation pass for safe and secure schools.

Klanderud noted just a comment on your question on the time frame you know they're working on a time frame but we also have a time frame on our side. We would probably want at least 2-3 months and that's why unfortunately now that this is serious by Fall our standard field training

program is between 2-3 months to get somebody through our training because even though they're assigned to the school they need to be fully trained to do anything for us and that program obviously the hiring program takes a little bit of time as well but the most important thing is the field training time. We did do a little research...they have some specific school resource officer training and there are a couple of different classes held in Minnesota this summer so I mean that is a possibility...they're held all over the nation but obviously if we were to do this we'd definitely like to keep them in the state if possible to send them to that type of training.

Belgard inquired let me ask you this, Corey (Klanderud). So what happens if the school resource officer is sick or goes on vacation. Does another officer ever fill in or is it just the one hired as the School Resource Officer.

Klanderud noted I think it would depend on the contract that we make with the school district and what their expectations are. I did this years ago and I've been part of the City of Fairmont's when they built their program and they did not have somebody there on those times. They would just have the patrol responsible for being there if something came up but from my history they didn't put somebody else there that day if they were out sick.

Smith noted we've talked about this in our Personnel Committee meetings but explain why the county is responsible for GHEC. Why is that different from Sherburn?

Klanderud noted any community that wants to institute their own law enforcement needs has the right to do that and once they initiate their own law enforcement agency then that agency becomes responsible for the law enforcement in that jurisdiction and so the difference in say Sherburn...the Martin County Sheriff's Office is still responsible for law enforcement services but the specifics of the day to day...by statute the Sheriff's Office is responsible for all felony investigations and so we're required by statute to investigate that. If there is a local police department that is operating in that jurisdiction that authority is turned over to them and we only step in if they fail to meet that statutory requirement and so the City of Granada is not covered by a law enforcement agency so it is the responsibility of the county. Now, we're responsible to investigate any felony level crimes in the City of Granada. Obviously we do more than that as much as we can but like other towns who have moved back from having no law enforcement agency it just increases the time of how much time we can spend there and how priorities have to change if it is a misdemeanor crime or even what would be considered a city ordinance violation those are not high on the priority scale with all the other things that are going on in the rest of the county.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, noted it is kind of what the community wants to pay for a level of service.

Belgard inquired let's say Sherburn says that we don't want the city police department to do it, then they could in turn delegate it to the county as well, right?

Klanderud answered if the police department would dissolve then it would become the responsibility of the county.

Belgard noted what if they don't dissolve. What if Martin County West Schools say you know that we couldn't reach an agreement with the City of Sherburn for a school resource officer...we want the county to do it because they're doing it in GHEC. Then does that become our responsibility?

Klanderud noted to answer your question, your initial question, is if MCW didn't want to contract with Sherburn/Welcome Police Department to provide SRO they could ask us but we wouldn't be required to provide it, because they have another law enforcement agency that is responsible in their jurisdiction. If the county wanted to put somebody in there they could, but we wouldn't be required to. The difference in this situation is GHEC doesn't have a local police department. So we are the prime law enforcement agency for that area; whereas, the other communities in Martin County have a local police department who is responsible for that jurisdiction so they would be the first resort for a School Resource Officer is coming from those individual agencies.

Belgard noted Truman Police Department is contracted with the City of Northrop to provide police protection in Northrop so they would be covered.

Klanderud noted a licensed peace officer has to be employed by a law enforcement agency and so I do not believe that the school district can just hire somebody that is licensed to enforce the laws of the state of Minnesota. It has to be done by a law enforcement agency so the school could hire a security guard to just provide general security.

Schmidtke inquired are there retired officers that maybe would consider coming back to do something like this and then just be there the 9 months of the school year?

Klanderud noted I don't know how that would work in the fact that you have to maintain your license and most of it is maintaining the skills and the desire to do that every day and so outside of that, employment contracts would be an issue on how much they work and if it would only be 9 months of a year. The easiest thing that most agencies have done is gone to a full time position. There are some Sheriff's Offices that have part time SRO positions but the majority are a full time position and the side benefit is the school district gets a huge benefit out of it...the Sheriff's Office does as well. It's easy to see the 3 months in the summer but there's also a ton of things during the school year that benefit the Sheriff's Office and make things smoother and easier for the job that we're initially trying to accomplish as well. Like I said it's hard to articulate that and is kind of the reason why I printed off so many different pieces of published information because it is hard to articulate all the little things that you end up doing and as with any law enforcement job you go into it thinking that you're just going to enforce the law you end up doing 6,000 other things that you never thought you would be involved in. It's just the totality of the position and unfortunately it comes down to money and we'll take what we can get.

Schmidtke noted we'll have to decide if we're doing it or not and what the split is. I know one side is going 75%/25% because it is 9 months of the school year and the other 3 months would probably be over here doing something else but there's also the side that it is also our

responsibility to protect our children and our students, our teachers and parents, whoever might be at that school. Makes a pretty good argument for 50%/50% or 60%/40%.

Belgard noted well one area would be 9 months. It's 9 months but during that 9 months there are days that you don't have school...there's Christmas vacation, breaks, what does this SRO do on those days...do they become do general deputy work again? There's actually more of those days than one might think...probably at least a months' worth.

Smith noted when you talk about the cost of a person...does that include the cost of when the Sheriff and Chief Deputy are working with them?

Klanderud noted there are some mandated trainings that come out at different times and some of that might need to be done during the school year as well that we'll have to pull somebody out to handle some of those things. To say that 9 months out of the year they're just at the school is easy, but it's not accurate. There will be plenty of other stuff that comes up. Even helping with a child protection investigation where the kid might go to that school but the majority of that is happening at the child's residence which is then a different part of the county...it's a benefit to the school but it is also a benefit to the Sheriff's Office, because he's handling that kind of stuff too but it starts with that...a lot of it starts with that relationship.

Mahoney noted I guess one of the things that I thought about is basically the cost of the program...I think Fairmont has about 1600 students and GHEC has about 300 so it's trying to feather that sort of situation in there.

Fletcher noted we chatted about that a lot. There's...in all honesty they (SRO's) can be as busy as you want them to be because there's no shortage of anything that they can do proactively to reach the student and there's lots of programs you can be in those classrooms as often or as little as you want. I think Fairmont in comparison have a lot more resources administratively and in-house with the number of administration and social workers and support counselors and nurses and the list can go on and on. Proportionately speaking the SRO would be one more tool with us and the administration and counseling and support staff so on a proportionate level I would say it would be very, very similar compared to Fairmont once you take in account their entire support staff that they have for their students.

Higgins noted I just got information from a survey with 35 counties responding and out of those counties responding 14 of them have SRO's and half of those do pay the 75%/25% and 21 counties do not have them.

Belgard inquired do we think we'd be ready in two weeks to make a decision?

Consensus is to include consideration of a School Resource Officer position for the GHEC School District on the commissioner agenda for the May 15th meeting.

Belgard noted so that gives us time to talk to people and probably that percentage is the question. I'm leaning towards doing it, in the meantime if the legislature in two weeks can come up with something that would be helpful.

Brian Nowicki, Chair GHEC School Board, noted we would probably rather work with you somehow and keep our cost at 50%/50%.

Mahoney introduced agenda item 4.2 Review County Attorney Space Needs/Office Move.

Higgins noted the Building Committee has approached this subject in dealing with the Department of Corrections (DOC) lease and need to talk about whether or not to terminate the lease (as it related to County Attorney office move). The rent collected now from the DOC is approximately the same amount as we pay for the County Attorney's office lease. So there are some efficiencies here that we're looking at to gain, along with some other changes discussed in the past.

Smith noted as a Building Committee we've been talking about this for a long time so it is not something that we just came up with a month or two ago we've been talking about it for a long time.

Belgard inquired that was specifically to move the county attorney to a specific location.

Schmidtke noted it could be down there (DOC) or it could be upstairs (Probation).

Terry Viesselman noted well obviously we don't want to move because our office is perfect for us. I designed it to meet all of our needs and with all of our files there's far more space than anything that we could ever afford to pay because basically I'm getting a lower level and an upper level for free and I'm paying rent on basically what is my main floor. We were talking about doing this (file) scanning to get rid of all of those little files so that at some point when we do the move, all that space requirement would be gone and we could get more to just what I've got on the main floor. So that's why we don't want to move now because we think it is premature and it is very disruptive. When I moved like 14 years ago, it was a nightmare and it cost a lot of money and we don't want to move twice, As I'll explain to you, it may be that you wind up moving me 3 times and just putting the thought into all this now has been disruptive for our office. The scanning project has taken a lot of time and I'm going to get into that more too. That's why that Transit (building transfer) thing I can't get to, because I'm dealing with this and many other things, and this disruption is really going to throw us off.

Viesselman further stated that moving to the DOC building...it is not as big as ours and is not adequate, you walk in there and the place smells and they think they have mold...what I asked them is did you have wet carpet because that's what it is...the pad under it because it smells musty and damp and I was told that before we went over there, Pete and I did, and it's true you walk in and you can smell it. But, the offices are nice there and they have a nice conference room which would be adequate for us and the offices for the attorneys are nice but our problem is there is no file storage. There's nothing for old files...there's not even file storage for our new files and currently those that have seen our office in our copy room that's where we keep the files of work close to Karen (Koehler). I think we probably average a minimum of 50 trips into that room a day and sometimes as many as 100 because there's 4 of us...we go in there constantly and get our files going back and forth and that is not a close proximity...it's going to really take time. We only have Karen (Koehler) there right now and every time she gets up she's

not at the front desk and she's not answering phones and it's disruptive. And this place doesn't have a breakroom...the worst part like for Karen (Koehler) she'd be in a cramped little spot and with little paths to get around to file cabinets and things...it would be claustrophobic for her and there's absolutely no room for a second secretary which at some point we've always wanted to do and hope to do it, especially if we move then we would have the budget for that.

Viesselman continued so in summary the place we don't think is adequate, we don't want to do it, and timing wise because of the justice center...if we're going to go to the justice center the idea is we'd move in there and so we don't want to move twice. It just seems that it is too early to be making a decision to move us now and if we don't get the bonding now, I understand that we're going to apply in two years again so there's going to be a time period before we really find out where we're at. If we do a smaller building, I know one of the things they're talking about is more like a law enforcement building and I know the sheriff has been advocating that they still have the county attorney's office in there and so again it just seems premature.

Viesselman noted here's what my big dilemma is...that the DOC said they have been told that they have to move and so they are looking for a place to move. I saw the email from Sara (Eischens) to Brad Larson saying we've been told that we have to move. And the problem with that is so they are looking for a place to go. The place they would love to be that is much better than they have is my office. So I'm going to be kicked out probably in July and you're going to have to find a place for me...my scanning project is not going to go, because it will throw that off, we're going to move all of those files where could it be. I thought well Fred Krahmer (office building) but he's going to want a year lease and expenses outrageous to house us temporarily, and then we're going to have to move back into the DOC, and then it will be the justice center where we're moving again. It's really got us concerned.

Viesselman went on to note the other thing with the DOC...they're unhappy right now and what I would like to do and what I'm leading up to is I want to get a lease with my landlord to keep me there you know get some stability for three years until we know where that justice center is and he's more than willing to do that. I want us to right away get to the DOC and make them happy because...they do five-year leases and if we do get the justice center they're not coming in and then we lose this \$28,000 of income. I think I want more space for them because they pay us and we're going to lose all of that income and if we do get the justice center, which is still a long shot, it just seems to me the \$28,000/year that's a lot of money just to be throwing away. I don't know if I can change their mind now, I just got an email from Brad Larson and I told him it is not done and I told him that I had talked with Scott and that we were coming to talk about it today. He said, well, I don't know at this point if we want to stay. But, the big carrot to them is the justice center, while we work on the justice center; let's give you a lease to stay there for 2-3 more years until we know where we're at with the justice center. We don't want to lose them and they need to be in there. We work with them all the time and it's nice to be close. The other place they're looking at is the mall. I work with the DOC and they really are part of my system. I'm close to them and I want to treat them right.

Smith noted you know you mentioned when we spoke...we don't have a lease right now where you're at...and we also don't have any security.

Viesselman noted his landlord will do a lease and we can do the security and I've put him on hold because of this because you guys were talking of moving and I could not do a lease. But here's the thing about the scanning thing we're going to do. I'm not happy about the progress I'm getting right now with my IT department and I think I'll get that worked out with Steve (McDonald) I just want you aware. I think that the system that IT is proposing is I won't say obsolete but outdated. The Laserfische form is not standard anymore it was great when it first came in but the courts don't use it anymore they go to pdf's, that's the universal language and now with E-filing everything is done in pdf's and when they send us documents and notices it is in pdf form. We're in the process of maybe going paperless so when we get files from law enforcement they're in pdf's, so we take the pdf and just transfer it into your electronic file. Pete takes his tablet to court and he's got his files in there a lot of times and so what we want to do with the old ones is we want to put them in pdf form so they're workable, so we don't have to go through conversion steps all the time because every time we would want to send something from a file in Laserfische you'd have to convert it and send it in extra steps and it is just not the same. What we can do, the pdf ones too, we have the programs already called scan snap scanners every lawyer has one on their desk and they're like \$200 each and it comes with a program which is exactly what you want for lawyers...you get a document, you put it in there upside down backwards whatever...however you do it straightens it out, files it, double sided, it corrects it for you and you can go right to your computer, move your file, and you're done. That's what most law firms are doing and so that's what I want to do. And then with this program once it's in there and if we archive our files that way you can put a note on there I sent this to so and so and it's there and if I do that and Pete pulls it up and he can see Terry's already done that or this is important or FBI you can put notes on and search I mean it is just a great program. Laserfische is outdated I called Blue Earth County...we used to have laserfische and we got away from it...they don't do that anymore. The Sheriff's Office I think used to use Laserfische and they're not using it anymore. Like I said the courts don't do it now...they're switched over too and so why would we want to...I can get someone else to get me what I want.

Smith inquired aren't you already doing it?

Pete Odgren noted yes we are doing it currently. We're trying to go with our 2018 files and everything going forward and we'll deal with everything else later as far as the older stuff. What our current preference would be is if they have a virtual private network where you can access your files through that. We've been told by Jackson County Attorney that she's talked to Steve McDonald here and she's unable to access her files through a VPN in the Martin County Courthouse and that's the only place she can't access them. And from what she's been telling us she's brought that to IT's attention and they have not been able to get things fixed so that she can access things. And that's the same process by which we're going to be doing this under our current idea and so we're going to have to fix that if we're going to do it the way that we'd like to do it and I'm not sure if that's one of the reasons why we'd purchase the Laserfische because Laserfische is already available in the courthouse and I'm not sure if that's the reason why but it seems like it could potentially be one of the reasons.

Viesselman noted when I talked to the attorneys in Blue Earth County they've been paperless for a while that's why I called them and they said they were doing Laserfische, but then they got away from that and they just take a tablet or a laptop with them and they login on VPN's when

they're in court and they are unable to do it here. The other thing is the thought of copying all of our files all being stored up here and to me that is a security breach. We have the ability with the system that we have, to do it in-house and back it up and store the backups wherever the county stores other backups. I get stuff from law enforcement and reports and these are highly confidential and I know Steve (McDonald) has BCA security and background search but it's not enough. It doesn't matter what you have...law enforcement can see them, we can see them, nobody else can. Not IT people or anything. Now Blue Earth County, the system they have they a password protected so even their IT cannot see anything and that's what I'm concerned now too because now too my emails are being seen and I send emails to you guys about employees and I mean I'm not saying he's looked at them, but he could and that's not right.

Pete Odgren noted what's different for us for even the law enforcement is that we have an ethical obligation for attorney/client privilege. Things that we talk to human services about...those are privileged communications and no one else can access those including IT and so even if they're not looking at those communications...if they have the capability of doing so we have to close that gap otherwise we're not following our ethical obligation to make sure that privilege is being maintained. As private lawyers and the way it is set up now and the way Steve (McDonald) is pushing would be malpractice and we won't do it that way.

Smith noted we talked about it at the Building Committee and we don't want you to move multiple times. We said we were going to wait and we did not tell the DOC that officially.

Higgins noted I think before this came up it was an open door for them.

Schmidtke noted I think they're just unhappy with the building. They nitpick every little thing. Doug (Borchardt) spends more time down there than the courthouse.

Smith noted let's get the carpet fixed.

Higgins noted today they're fixing the sewers. And we replaced the carpet 5 years ago. When I went down there I didn't observe any building issues.

Viesselman noted that's why I said did you have wet carpet and she said yes and showed me and then they had a question of black mold and they had the janitors come and clean up what there was recently, but it smelled to me just like somebody's basement.

Odgren noted one of the other questions, Terry, was the timeline for renovating the other building to allow us to have access to that. What's the timeline and the cost.

Viesselman noted that was the other thing and is one of the things we had talked with the Building Committee is adjoining that office (117 No. Main) with the office on the corner (121 No. Main) and doing a walkway for file storage because even though we're doing the scanning projects on these files the files cannot be destroyed you have to keep them but the thing is we can't do that and be there at the same time and that's going to take time because it's two different buildings...you're going to have to get approval from the City similar to what we're doing for the Transit (Facility), because you've got two different lots and now you're trying to join them

so now you've got a zoning thing with the City so it would take time. So what I'm saying is if we are going to go there and have to do some preparation we are going to have to be housed temporarily.

Mahoney inquired how soon do you expect to start your scanning project. As soon as possible?

Viesselman noted yeah, we put the ad out now and I have what I think is a pretty good candidate too and so if it is possible once we get our systems up and we'll see who all applied.

Mahoney inquired so have you decided what you're going to use yet?

Viesselman noted we have everything we need to start doing it except the one thing we need eventually at one point is additional hard drives or space storage and our server has empty bays to add more. Marco out of Mankato has always taken care of us and Steve (McDonald) had Marco come in and put in some new fire walls, because Marco knows how to do that and is familiar with our system and while they were there I asked a technician about it and he said oh yeah we can get you these different hard drives that will add on space and then we wrote them and somehow Steve (McDonald) found out we had contacted Marco and we just asked for price quotes and now Marco is not responding to us.

Odgren noted I think one of the things we need to talk about also is the older files...ones that we don't access them too often we may be able to decompress them or whatever that process is so we might possibly need less space than we think we do, but we're still going to need more space regardless moving forward.

Higgins noted I'll just add, you talk about all of this scanning of records...you're not going to need that record space.

Viesselman noted I know...if we get kicked out now...even if the DOC leaves, I guess I would just like us to stay where we're at until one, we know about the justice center, and two, if that falls through and it is decided to eventually move us then you'll have it ready for us, but I just don't want to do that move.

Smith noted the problem is we're dealing with the lease that's up this summer. That's kind of why we're looking at this. I don't know if they would be interested in a one, two, or three year lease.

Higgins noted they'd be interested. They'd like to do something more long term than a one year but they'll do the one year.

Flohers noted the major thing we were worried about up there is security. That was one of the things. I think you should just go ahead, get your three-year lease, get the security all put in, and we'll deal with this in 3 years. Maybe by that time we'll have our justice building. That's my opinion.

Belgard noted and I would concur with that.

Smith noted yeah, that makes sense. If they will do a shorter lease.

Belgard noted and in exchange for that I want the deed to that Transit.

Schmidtke noted if we can lease that for three more years or two more years or whatever it is going to be then that security has to be put in and I don't want to wait another year to see it put in.

Flohers noted we've got to get on that right away.

Smith noted and the carpet needs to be fixed in your (County Attorney's) office. You know some of those things need to get done if we're going to have a lease there.

Schmidtke noted they need to come and fix the lights and the restroom...the guy renting out this building should fix stuff.

Mahoney noted so we'll go to 4.3 next, Discuss Lease Termination for DOC Felony Office.

Belgard noted that we'll want to approach with a short term lease then.

Mahoney inquired so what's a short term lease?

Belgard noted well it's certainly at least two. I'm not going to be doing anything in two years. Two or three I'd say. I wouldn't even have a problem with five.

Schmidtke noted my problem down there at the DOC they seem to nitpick everything. Doug (Borchardt) goes down to fix something and he has to go back down there again and again. I don't know what the problem is. Maybe we do need to go tour it ourselves to see.

Forshee noted they're talking about that black mold...it was a piece of tape wrapped around a pipe and it wasn't black mold, it was black ink. It was removed and it has been taken care of.

Schmidtke noted but if there's a carpet issue...

Belgard noted then we'd look at that and replace the carpet if there is potentially something underneath it...we've got to kill it and...

Mahoney inquired didn't they say it was five years old the carpet? So do we have a roof leak or a window leak?

Belgard noted seepage probably with the cement walls.

Higgins noted I guess I'm not aware of that. I'll find out if there is seepage. It probably backed up in one area. I would assume they tried to clean the carpet. So if it hasn't been cleaned

properly that would be one thing. It's not a building wide thing that I'm aware of from what I've been told. So...

Schmidtke noted could we meet as a Building Committee on the 15th in the afternoon then so we take the time and tour that building and a couple of other things we've wanted to do.

Higgins inquired whether we should put this on the next agenda. We heard some things that it's not going to happen with the County Attorney Office to move or do you want an official action by the Board?

Belgard noted we have until the 15th, right. I would say by consensus that it's not going to happen yet.

Schmidtke noted the one thing he didn't talk about today was moving upstairs where Probation is.

Smith and Flohrs noted he did suggest that.

Mahoney noted I was okay for him to stay there until he retires assuming 2-3 years.

Smith noted we thought by getting his files scanned in it would take some pressure off.

Belgard noted I think that will take care of a couple of problems.

Smith noted we've got to get the security done.

Flohrs noted I didn't think the landlord would do it. I thought that's what the holdup was.

Mahoney inquired, so do we want to put it on the agenda then for May 15th?

Belgard noted I think in the meantime you could talk to the DOC and say this isn't imminent in fact it looks like you're staying, if you so choose and we would like to keep you.

Smith noted they kind of have to know that we're up in the air with the justice center thing too. I think that they would be a little bit understanding too.

Belgard noted this isn't something (the justice center) that no matter what would happen overnight.

Belgard noted I think I gave him the picture that we got and asked to figure what the building would actually cost...not what an architect says it will cost.

Mahoney noted, so I think in the last two or three weeks when we talked about our improvements at the Transit Building that was a pretty substantial amount of money. So are we going to want to stick that money into that building?

Smith noted you already voted on that Tom.

Flohers noted that's all done.

Belgard noted I think we just reaffirmed that at the last meeting. It is what it is and it's a lot but we're going to do it, we just voted on it.

Mahoney inquired; do we have anything else to come in front of the Board?

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Tom Mahoney, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator