

Grafton County Executive Committee Jail Sub-Committee
Minutes 2/6/2012

Present: Rep. Almy, Rep. White, Rep. Ladd, Rep. Smith

Sub-committee reviewed information sent for Superintendent Van Winkler of Cheshire County Corrections. Difficult to compare their facility costs with Grafton County because of how things written up on spread sheets from the two facilities and because Grafton County is still in transition to new facility.

Rep. White expressed concern as to whether we have enough correctional officers to staff the new facility and not cut programs that will help inmates and the facility overall. Important for safety of employees and inmates that there are enough COs on duty. Where else in the budget can things be tweaked so that we have enough officers and do not cut valuable programs?

Medical unit: Should be looking at contracting out for medical services to save money? Cheshire County's medical unit is open from 6 am to 10 pm. No inmates kept in cells in medical unit at night. If they are that sick, sent to hospital. Discussion of costs to transport. Many differences between their facility and ours – location, community size.

Kitchen: Committee would like to have a better idea of cost of meals. For example, are food costs for produce (eggs, meat, milk) used from farm figured into the budget? Cheshire has contracted out the cooking. Their superintendent had final say in who was hired to be head chef. Inmates do work in kitchen. Plan for Grafton is to have a lieutenant CO who is trained in culinary in charge. Inmates will work in kitchen and laundry under this lieutenant. Grafton Co. Nursing Home has contracted out food. Is it feasible that same contractor could do kitchen in new jail? Other contractors – Sodexo? Rep. Almy will get copy of contracts that Cheshire has to see what they cover. Liability insurance etc.

It is unclear as to what is classified under support services. We need to confirm the rank of support services (person-s) and job description.

Is there a way to cut expenses by not accepting drunks who have not committed a crime? Is it the law that drunks have to come to county? How many people come into town drunk tank? This is asked mostly about Lebanon.

Grafton County has part-timer employees who do not get benefits. Question asked about whether it would be more beneficial for keeping people long term, benefit to community, if people got benefits and worked full time.

All agreed that privatization of the entire facility was not practical or economical long term however, contracting out for some portions may be worth looking in to. Rep. Ladd volunteered to write up a piece on why we don't want to privatize the entire jail operation.

Final analysis is that we need more information and a meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 24, 2012 to be held after meeting of Executive Committee of delegation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Suzanne Smith