

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Batavia, New York
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019**

The Genesee County Legislature met on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 following the Legislature meeting at 6:00 PM at the Old County Court House Legislative Conference Room, Batavia, New York.

Present: Legislators Bausch, Clattenburg, Stein, Young, Torrey, Deleo, Maha, Hilchey, Dibble, County Manager Jay Gsell, Jail Committee Co-Chair's Matt Landers & Sheriff William Sheron, Jail Committee members Bill Zipfel, Laura Wadams, Vicky Muckle, Kevin Andrews, Brad Mazur, Paul Osborn, Eve Hens, Also present, Christian Yunker, Kevin Earl, Howard Owens-The Batavian

Legislature Chairman Bob Bausch called the meeting to order and asked Assistant County Manager and Jail Committee Co-Chair Matt Landers for comments on the white paper (Report to the Genesee County Legislature on Proposed County Jail Facility) he distributed to Legislators last week.

Mr. Landers explained questions in the white paper came from legislators and were thoroughly researched. His recent conversation with a federal ICE official confirmed the opportunity to house federal detainees. ICE can send between 20-30 detainees per day at a cost of \$120 per day. His initial calculation for housing ICE detainees was conservative at 20 beds at a cost of \$100 per day.

Mr. Landers explained that it is reasonable to get down to \$60 million in capital costs. It was clarified that capital costs do not include the required transition team. Mr. Landers stated that a delay will result in higher costs.

Deputy Highway Superintendent Paul Osborn explained that the new jail facility will require two full-time facilities management employees. He confirmed that the County Jail should have one full-time employee now however there is less than one presently. Although it will be a new facility there will be ample on-going maintenance.

A Jail Staffing Analysis Comparison was handed out and included Allegany, Sullivan, St. Lawrence, Orleans and Wyoming County jails; number of beds, pods, full time and part time officers, support staff, full-time officers per bed and support staff per bed. It was noted by legislators the projected number of officers and support for Genesee County was low. It is expected the Commission of Corrections will require additional officers and support staff.

Chairman Bausch asked if there was consensus on number of beds; Legislators Maha and Stein indicated they supported the recommended number of 184. Legislator Maha stated a consultant was hired and paid by the County to conduct research and provide a report to the Jail Committee & Legislature. Legislator Young stated he thinks 180 is too high and wants to see a reduction in number of beds. He asked if designing cells to allow for double bunking makes sense financially. The double bunk design was removed due to cost since financially it does not make sense. Also, dorm style design was also eliminated.

Jail superintendent Bill Zipfel explained that prisoners are classified and the new jail needs to include adequate pods to ensure prisoners are housed appropriately based on classifications.

Chairman Bausch stated he drafted a letter to the Commission of Corrections explaining that the County appreciates their guidance and technical support and further explaining the current financial situation of the County. He stated that he is recommending the new jail project be placed on hold due to the lack of a funding mechanism. The special legislation authorizing a 40 year sales tax agreement has not been signed by the Governor. Without a 40-year sales tax allocation agreement the county does not have a viable mechanism to financially support the construction and operations of a new jail. He will provide legislators with a copy of the letter which has not been signed yet. He welcomes comment and feedback prior to mailing the letter which would include a copy to the governor, Assemblyman Hawley, Senator Ranzenhofer and Batavia City Council.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.