

Grafton County Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes January 12 2007

Meeting commenced at 9AM

Present: GCDOC Superintendent Glenn Libby, CRS Consultant Rod Miller, SMRT Arthur Thompson, NHSP Lt. John Scarzina, Grafton County Commissioner Martha Richards, Grafton County Ex. Director Julie Clough, GCDOC Lt. Elliott, Grafton County Sheriff Doug Dutile, Representative Burt Williams, Representative Catherine Mulholland, Grafton County Director of Communications Tom Andross, Grafton County Superior Court Clerk Robert Muh, Lebanon Police Chief Jim Alexander, Grafton County Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes, Citizen Representatives Rick Alpers and Ron Michaud

Opening statement by Superintendent Libby about reaching a consensus on the number of beds the new facility will contain and what factors will be used to determine that final number. He then described some issues that may effect that number, such as community based programs currently in use and other programs that may be implemented in the future. Superintendent Libby then asked that the Committee stay focused on the matter at hand and to keep moving ahead.

Arthur Thompson described the goals presently are to find the need and to figure out what we need physically to accommodate that need. He stated that these goals are what Rod Miller has been working on for the past few months. Rod's job is to define the need and to define the beds that are needed to accommodate now and out into the future. He stressed that it is important to do a good job on this task because the number of beds defines the scope of the project and how much it is going to cost. He also noted that there are many external issues that could ultimately affect what that need will be down the road. Mr. Thompson stated that the number of beds is probably the most controversial number in the whole process. It is important to have the basis well established for reaching the final number because there will be many questions as to whether the number of beds is too many or too few. Once that number is decided we then go into the programming phase which is scheduled to start the first week in February. This phase will define what every functional area of the jail will be, how they will operate, what kind of spaces are needed and at the same time we begin to diagram how those spaces work. The cost to operate the facility will also be addressed during this phase.

Superintendent Libby described the facility programs currently in use such as Community Corrections and OPI that keep the number of inmates in-house down. He also talked about community based, in-house and treatment programs that may be utilized in the future to decrease the number of in-house inmates, the Drug Court, pre-trial screening/release and day reporting for example. Superintendent Libby fielded several questions as to funding, treatment and the growing population in Grafton County.

Jim Alexander, Lebanon Police Chief, observed that his population has doubled over the past 5 years.

Commissioner Richards commented that she would like to see some sort of intervention prior to incarceration. This opinion was shared by several other committee members.

Rod Miller gave some observations on the Criminal Justice System, geographic issues, and also commented on mental health, housing and substance abuse issues. Mr. Miller then discussed the projections indicated by the data he had collected and analyzed in regards to bed space needs, peaking factors and classification factors. He also talked about a flexible design so that the facility would be productive and effective in regards to programs, services, activities and work.

A consensus was reached by all Committee Members that the target figure for the number of beds should be 240 with the ability to double bunk within the unit. This will allow some flexibility and give Grafton County the capability to expand as needed to house out of county inmates such as the Coos County females we currently house or inmates from other sources.

The relationship between the County Farm and the DOC will be addressed in Mr. Miller's next report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.