

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 9, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on January 9, 2006 in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Administration Building, Bakersville, N.C. Those present for the session were Keith Masters, Chairman; Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman; Phil Byrd, Member; Mike Hensley, Member; Jim Saylor, Member; Ryan Whitson, County Manager and Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board. Also present were Lloyd Hise, County Attorney; Mavis Parsley, Finance Officer; Nathan Hall, Reporter with the Mitchell News-Journal; Steve Murphy, Reporter with WKYK Radio Station; John Duncan, Pease Associates; Gary Runion, Pease Associates; Larry Thompson, Former CEO of Western Highlands; Arthur Carder, CEO of Western Highlands; Darlene Burleson, Tax Assessor; Jennifer Sparks, Director of Elections; Roger Hoilman, Board of Elections; Luther Stroup, Board of Elections; John Perry, Dona Thanos, Carl Braswell, Ed & Jana Reid, David Carpenter, Ruthie Styles, Blaine Biddix, Lisa Sparks, Mary Hopper, Tom & Robin Ellis, Judge Leavell and David Woody.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Masters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Commissioner Hollifield gave the invocation.
3. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to add the Tower Site Lease with Mitchell County Board of Education to the agenda. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Byrd moved approve the minutes for September 27, 2005 Special Session, November 22, 2005 Special Session, December 1, 2005 Special Session and December 5, 2005. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**
 - A. **Mental Health Update** – Larry Thompson, former CEO of Western Highlands introduced Arthur Carder, CEO of Western Highlands. Mr. Thompson informed the Board he would be providing a Semi-Annual Report to each of the eight boards of commissioners. The best need or issue in the eight counties is the issue of Crisis Service. For the last six months Western Highlands has been working with Spruce Pine Community Hospital to see if it would be possible to have an observation bed at that facility rather than transporting people directly to Broughton Hospital. Western Highlands is working on the development of a Crisis Center in Asheville. Mr. Thompson provided the following information to the Board: **1)** Crisis Stabilization Services Summary **2)** Utilization Report **3)** List of Governing Board Members. A copy of these reports are hereby attached and becomes a part of the

minutes. Arthur Carder provided the Board with the status of the Re-organization proposal of the LME.

County Manager Whitson thanked Mr. Thompson for the good job he had done over the years.

- B. **Board of Elections Update** – Luther Stroup informed the Board that Diebold pulled out leaving Mitchell County with no certified voting machines. There is one company that is certified in the State of North Carolina and it is ES&S. Mitchell County will get a grant from the state that will cover all but \$570 of the cost of purchasing new voting equipment. Mr. Stroup read a Resolution recommending Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counter and the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal from Election Systems & Software (ES&S). A copy of the resolution is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes.

Commissioner Hensley moved to allow Jennifer to pursue the grant and to buy the machines. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- C. **Tower Site Lease** – Commissioner Saylor moved to approve the Tower Site Lease (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS** - None

7. **RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ORDINANCES** - None

8. **APPOINTMENTS** - None

9. **RELEASES/REFUNDS**

A. **Releases/Refunds for Board Approval** – Commissioner Hensley moved to approve the Releases/Refunds for Board Approval (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. **Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval** – A copy of the Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval are hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes.

10. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Pease Associates** – Chairman Masters – This Board started taking a look at the jail issue sometime in January, February or March of last year. Since then we have been around a couple of times on what we should do on a jail design. I think we have had two plans drawn. We have a rather high dollar inclusive plan and we have a lower dollar plan for a basic kind of jail. This Board needs to attempt to come to some decisions in the near future on how we want to proceed with a plan and have that plan then drawn and developed. Then it will be sent in to the state for some kind of approval or disapproval and redrawn. That is what this is about. So, John we will let you go ahead and or do you have both of our plans?

John Duncan – Yes, I will explain what you have in front of you.

Chairman Masters – So, we will just be turning this over to you and let you move forward then.

John Duncan - All right, I want to introduce Mr. Gary Runion, he is a colleague of mine with Pease Associates. We have been doing jails up in these parts and west of here for some time and I think I met with

you folks about two or three months ago. We kind of went through the whole gamma of what is possible in a jail. I guess we have been working with you since about last summer. The original idea was to come up with a comprehensive plan so that we could submit it to the USDA for funding, which we did and the first plan that we are going to show you, which is the first three sheets in your handout (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). The handout is exactly the same as these boards. Some of these boards are printed kind of lightly so we wanted to have something in front of you that you could also read some of the language on the plan to kind of see what we have in it.

This is what we submitted to the USDA. It was a jail that was about 36 beds and it included 2 man cells in the housing area. We had some medical cells, isolation cells, we had a booking area, and we had a Sheriff' s Office that was attached, but could be an alternate where it could be built or not built depending on what the county wanted to do. We ran the numbers on that and I think the jail was 2.7 million and the Sheriff' s Office was 700,000 or 800,000. The USDA gave us 3.5, I think it was, million dollars to do this project and that has been set aside. What we have done in that plan was I think I went over it the last time. It was basically two buildings that were connected and then we had a sally port in the front. We tried to do the design such that the scale was a low scale that would go with the Courthouse that would be brick and have a slope on. This is just an idea of how it might look from the street and the type plan shows how it fit on the site. The Courthouse is up here, this is the access road coming up the hill, this is the sally port where you drive in where you drive in and bring the prisoners in. The Sheriff' s Office would face this way and the parking for the Sheriff' s Office was here. It pretty well filled up the site. We designed it so that it could expand this way. You may recall that there is a bank right here, so we tried to keep it from going to far into that bank. This fit on the site pretty well. We felt as far as the first go around this was good for what we did.

We have been working with Ryan for a couple of months now and he had some ideas and at the same time we have been looking around at jails in and around this area. This area being the southeast. What we have encountered is that the costs of these buildings have gone up dramatically in the past two to three years. What use to cost \$150 a square foot is now costing \$300 and more and those jails were concrete boxes that you brought to the site. They were reinforced concrete block with brick masonry or something on the outside of them with conventional mechanical systems and so forth.

Over the past two years in Western North Carolina what has happened is that there are fewer bidders out there so it is harder to get prices. Prices have escalated. Gas has escalated. So the whole construction market has gone up and we just believed or did not believe that coming in with some of our other clients that counties ought to be paying \$300 a square foot or \$350 for jails even though that is the way that we were designing them a couple of years ago. We got with some friends of the industry that makes security equipment and go to looking at some jails down in South Carolina and Georgia and what we have discovered is that there is a way to doing a jail know that you use basically simpler materials like metal buildings and prefabricated steel walls that you can put up so that you do not have to waste all the time on masonry. In doing that research we think that we can build a smaller facility because the walls are thinner and we have got some efficiency and have gone from two person cells to four person cells. Ryan had a lot of good ideas that we worked with him on to kind of get this smaller. That original plan that you saw was about 12,000 square

feet. We have now got this jail down to 9,000 square feet and if you just do simple arithmetic and you multiply 9 times \$220 then you are somewhere around \$2,000,000 in that range.

Chairman Masters – How many?

John Duncan – We got 9,000 square feet and if you did it around \$220 – we do not know what it is going to cost and we are not going to tell you right now what we think it is going to cost because we do not know. What we do know is the alternate plan that we are presenting to you know in its construction is going to be less expensive than the jails that we designed previously because we have done this homework and we have figured out how to reduce the cost of it and reduce the size. In having reduced the size just in itself is going to be to be a cost savings.

Chairman Masters – Now I want to interrupt you right there. You are talking about not just our particular jail, but other jails you have observed.

John Duncan – I am talking about other jails that we have. We are working on Cherokee County now and Clay county now and both of those we have contractors now pricing this new construction system. It is just as secure as the alternative system. It just can be built faster with more simpler materials. You do not have much labor in them. So it is a shorter duration. That is the difference between building a metal structure that is prefabricated and you can bring in onto the site erect it as opposed to getting a steel fabricator making up all of the steel and coming up and putting it up piece by piece.

What we have done is we have applied this to all of our work. Because the same problem we have had when we started over in Yancey County and that project came in high. As we were seeing this we just said that we have got to come up with something. So, that is where we are headed.

So, what we have come up with as a site plan – you have got a building now that the proposed jail is right here and it is 9,000 square feet. That may go up slightly depending slightly on mechanical rooms and a few other things, but it is not going to go up to 12,000 square feet.

County Manager Whitson – And it will hold more prisoners.

John Duncan – It does hold more prisoners. This jail will hold 43 the other one was as low as 36. Again we would reduce the cost by going to these four person cells. That is taking out a door and a toilet out of each modular unit so we got pretty good savings there. What we have done is that you can see here is rather than take the whole site with this project is that we are basically showing the jail as being located as far back on the site as we can. The area that we can get the road is back on this side because this is coming down and the grade hits right about in there. If we can move this up a little bit we will try to do it. We may have to do some grading to get that then the prisoners will come in the sally port right here the cars come around through this enclosed entryway they close the doors and take the prisoners out and take them into the jail and then they come back around here and they can park here or if they are going back out they can go back out that way. We have a few spaces for visitors and you do not have to have a big parking lot. The kitchen we provided a caterer kitchen for meals that are prepared off site and brought in. We have also provided for the expansion of a kitchen if you want to do it to one side of the building

that is in the blue. We have also provided the expansion of another 24 beds by mirroring the cell area at this end of the jail.

As I said the building as you can see now is just square. That is a prefabricated metal building. It is the kind that you can see that are efficient to put up. I think as far as – then what we have done is we have taken this portion of the site and left it open and then if you decide to put a Sheriff's Office or a warehouse or some other kind of facility we are leaving the land free so that – the other design that we have we haven't deleted anything we have just done it where rather than taking the whole site like this we have got it where half of the site can be whatever you want. We have really not made any changes from this design other than separating the two buildings.

Mr. Runion – This expansion piece can also keep going out if you wanted to add another 48 beds or keep expanding the jail so that over the long term you would have the flexibility.

John Duncan – You can expand on three sides as Gary said you can keep going this way.

Take a look at the floor plan. This is kind of light, but I think on yours it is a little bit more readable. Let me just quickly show you how we have put this together. The design of this building, the sally port that I mentioned that you drive into is down here at the bottom of the site. So you come into this space. It is a drive through type sally port. There is an entry sally port right there where officers check their guns. They bring the prisoner into the booking area that is right in the middle of the building. We have one security station right here and that is called the booking area and control station. We have another control station right here in the housing unit. So you really have two control stations – one, two. What we have done in this design that is different than the other design is rather have a Y shaped mechanical chases this is one thing that we have learned is that we can save a lot of money if you back up the utilities back up against each other. So we put cells along this wall and cells along that wall so your housing modules is this unit and this unit. Each of those contain twelve. So you twelve here and twelve here – they are in four I mean three boxes with four people in them so you have twelve and twelve. So the control room is here so he is looking directly at both modularly units and he can also see down this corridor to the person at this control station here. So you have a very good visibility and supervision. The expansion piece you take advantage of the fact that the control room is here you just put that way so that you can pick up another twelve and another twelve. As Gary said you can go further and add another one of these in the long-term. You may never really have the need for it. So, this should satisfy your needs for as long as I think any of us can contemplate in the future. You will not have to build a new jail. You may have to put some additions and make some modifications.

As far as the rest of the jail the booking area is here. Off of the booking area we have a couple of toilets here and a dressing area. This other group of cells includes two four-person cells for females which gives you eight and then we have two juvenile cells which we are also going to double bunk this gives you two more and two more there. Then we have an isolation cell and a couple of holding cells and a medical center, which are these right in here. So, the other thing that we have done is we have included showers in the cells. Because you have four people the shower is economical and it can have a shower in this area you can have it supervised by male or female staff because the females are not out in the day room dressing and so forth in the cells which may be an advantage to you as far as staffing and how you

set up your professional staff and your shifts. If you think it worth adding the showers and the cost of it is very low compared to the advantage that you might gain with some of the staffing. When I met with you before I told you that staffing is the biggest cost that you have. And we think that this jail can be run with basically two people unless you are completely full and have a lot of activity going on. You probably would have to have three just because of the movement of people in and out. Another thing that you can do with this jail is that you can shut this down on the third shift and have a person working here. You have a lot of flexibility with this control system.

We have got some offices over here for the jailer and some storage. The other half of this is holding cells and interview rooms and we have got the kitchen that I mentioned. We have a kitchen here and the laundry here. I mentioned that if you can add the kitchen the kitchen would be somewhere over here so that you can have a loading dock and you can cook the food here and bring it in if in the future you have a kitchen. On the site plan this is the blue area here and this is the yellow area back up here.

Basically that is the way that it came together and we basically provided four more beds with 3,000 less square feet. It is pretty efficient. There are a couple of things that we still have to work out. One is visitation. We are thinking that we might make visiting booths here and here, but we have to go to get the public to it. So we are going to do a little bit or work to give you some alternatives on how that can work. But I think in our last meeting right after Christmas, Ryan felt like we were getting pretty close to the kind of thing that you needed. Really efficient. We can build this building out of the system that we talked about. These cells all the way down to here would be a two-inch wide partition filled with concrete. They can put this up before the building is actually built. They can bring these on the site as soon as the slab is poured they can start putting these walls up. Contractor will build the building around it. If you do masonry, you have to build masonry and then put the building on top of it. So this will probably save about three months on your construction time.

Chairman Masters – Which translates into a quite a bit of money.

John Duncan – It all comes down in the market we are in you have got to figure out easy simple ways – whenever they look at something custom they start adding dollars up. Now if the market goes the other way sure people start sharpening their pencils. We are never going to get back to the way we were, but maybe it will get a little more reasonable. Right now it is just so outrageous that we just have to do something different and that is what we are going. We think we have come up with something that is really more flexible.

Just a couple of thoughts on the exterior of it. There may be some questions on a middle building on how we can deal with it. We have given Ryan several alternatives and I think we have come with one that you have on your last page. I would like Gary, he has done this design to walk through it with you just to give you the highlights and then you can ask whatever questions that you want.

Gary Runion – Basically, if you starting out as you approach the site we have the drive and the main entrance over on this side. What we have done is position the building to take maximum advantage of the flat area. In doing so we have created this linear path and visual path as you come to building and also created a natural circulation on the site. In doing that we used a combination of green space and paving space to add a little bit more body to the building so that you are not

staring at a plain pre-engineered building with metal sides. In doing that we have got an area here and you can see it right here – a concrete area where you can put a flag pole, a sculpture, make a little bit more of a government type look and by creating this vista from the main drive coming back into the main focus of the jail this is the area that we were looking to enhance and bring up a little bit to the next notch aesthetically. We would be using a combination of brick and block and maybe some concrete. Something in those areas to give that an enhanced look while saving a little bit more money around a pre-engineered portion back here. What we also do is to start to plant some trees or something in front that puts a little more focus on the front of this building. The elevation as you can see is pretty much going, taking the form of the pre-engineered building that is kind of what is dictating the roof, but it starts to tie back into a little bit in turns of the per portion or reminiscent of the Courthouse, although not completely in a traditional manner. Then in this particular scheme you see a darker red that can be more of a different color brick. Maybe it is something that we want to go light we can use something like a light color white or a light colored brick to make it more of column look to it. We can do various things with this particular area. Along the front side you also see some windows which gives some natural day lighting just into that sally port area and then we have a features here just on the front made of different colored brick, accented patterns and things just to give a little more highlight to the building. That same brick that we are using on this front side would continue around the entire base of the building to just kind of give it a water line. The rest of the building would be the pre-engineered metal siding. We can mix this up as we need be and there are probably some things that we can do to enhance the siding so that it is not so dull. We can work through that as we continue to develop this design.

This is a couple of different perspectives. The one here on the top right gives you a perspective as if you were driving down the center of the road looking at the jail head on. The second one gives you a little more perspective when you are up on the road as you are continuing to head on up the hill which you would see as you start to pass this sight. The roof color itself is a little bit bigger. We can tone that down using a gray or a green to blend that in with the surrounding landscape.

John Duncan – Your Courthouse has a gray roof so we are not worried about the roof. The more I have looked at what Gary has put together here, the premium on the brick I think would be 80 to 100 thousand dollars if you did the whole thing with a brick veneer. By doing this part here we are figuring it is going to be half of that. The security of the building does not depend upon the metal siding. The security of the building is in the steel panel and reinforced masonry that just goes around the outside and that of course the economy we really do not care what the outside is made of. The traditional jails, you either build that out of solid concrete or solid reinforced masonry and that is what costs you.

Gary Runion – By putting the money here you start to get back more of something that ties in with the overall site. As far as aesthetically –

Chairman Masters – Aesthetically there are options for this that would make it pleasing to the eye using the metal. It is not just a plain metal.

Gary Runion – Right, we can put bands, we can determine what kind of siding we want to use. Where we go from here is we have brought this design to a good plan that we would recommend that you go with. We need to do some modifications. If you want to look at enhancing

this one way or another we have got a period of time here that we can give you some other alternatives to make sure that you come up with what you want it to look like. I think that we have a good start and we feel very comfortable that we can make this a good deal and that the citizens will feel good about as they drive up to the Courthouse. This is not going to be an eyesore.

Chairman Masters – Now with us here we have Lisa Sparks, who is with one of the Alderpersons,

Lisa Sparks – I am a counsel person.

Chairman Masters – Counsel person for the Town of Bakersville. We have our attorney Lloyd Hise. We have one of our judges Bill Leavell who is in the back. We have Melissa; you are going to have to tell me your first name again. Who is with the Bakersville Fire Department and does some safety inspection work for them. So we are and our Sheriff, how did I miss you? I started to say Ken Hollifield back there. Ken Fox.

Ken Hollifield – You are pushing it buddy.

Chairman Masters – We are very interested in the safety aspects of the interior because we have had tragedy here and we do not want that to ever happen again. So we want to make sure that we have all the safety features in there that will keep everybody there safe not just the people who are incarcerated, but our staff that we have working there.

John Duncan – The way that the safety is going to work is the building has got an automatic sprinkler system. It also has smoke evacuation – this is North Carolina code now and they require it be done. If you have to let them out of the facility for fire exits they will be in a contained yard. That contained yard has to have a fence that is sixty feet or more away from the building. The fence is located on the backside of the building so that the fence will not be in the front of the facility. As soon as the fire alarm goes off what happens is the smoke evacuation fans come on and the sprinkler system comes on. From life safety I think that between the code and your local people here we will work that out so that everybody feels very secure that we have done everything possible to protect the lives of the people that use the building.

County Manager Whitson – There is one other aspect of this building if I am not mistaken we are going to have separate heating and cooling systems.

John Duncan – One of the thoughts we have had is that given the population that you have now which is ten to twelve, obviously if you get a jail there is going to be reasons where judges may want to hold people where other wise they might have let them out on bail. If your population is relatively low we have designed it so that this group of twelve and this group of twelve are on separate heating and cooling systems so that you can shut either or both of them down if you don't have the population. By having these variety of size spaces you have a lot of flexibility on who you are going to hold and how you are going to hold them. We are also looking at how to take the medical and isolation cells since we do not have day rooms for them, as see if we can get DFS to give us kind rule where we can hold people there for twenty-four hours if it is just a question of exercise them that would pick up a few more beds and we have not counted them in the forty bed facility. There is quite a bit of flexibility in this.

Chairman Masters – On this type of construction, using the two-inch panels, what has been your experience on that construction method in the past as far as it has worked out when the jail became functional?

John Duncan – The ones that we have looked at that are occupied now – they are just as sturdy and durable as brick or concrete block because it has the concrete core. They have another product out that is a fabricated steel cell that is just a steel box, which is competitive. The problem with it is it is like a tin can and you bang on the side of it and it vibrates and we saw some problems with that. We do not think that one is going to be that much less. What we like is a combination of concrete and steel. The ones we have looked at have held up just as well. We will be glad to take you folks and the sheriff down to look at them so you can get an idea of what we are talking about. The one we are looking at was build for \$200 a square foot a year ago. We are figuring we can beat \$300 a square foot.

Chairman Masters – The security of it, how is that from your experiences?

John Duncan – You cannot go through these walls.

Chairman Masters – If this is a concept that the Board likes and wants to explore farther, I think there is some work to be done before we make and decisions. It is a pretty new concept and I think we need to have representatives from this Board look at what this is really about and make sure we are making the best decision as far as the construction method itself and the design.

Commissioner Saylor – On paper I am impressed with it. It looks reasonable. It is functional. I would to see one in use.

Chairman Masters – This one does not include a kitchen, so what we would be talking about would be catered meals.

John Duncan – Right.

Chairman Masters – Do you find that is the trend with most of the jails that are being built. They are not building kitchens.

John Duncan – The equipment cost about \$225,000. The building that encloses it costs about \$200,000.

Commissioner Hollifield – First of all I would like to thank you gentlemen for what work you have put in on this. It has come time to us getting closer to making up our minds on what we want. I think along with a lot of citizens in this county we want something we can be proud of when we build a jail. The cheapest way is not always the best way. I think we should put up something that will last and my experience with metal buildings is in twenty years with paint over it will be to replace. We have to look at these things. That is important. Why not up it up at one time and be done with it. Correct me if I' m wrong John you said this is 2.7 million for the first scheme and 3.5 million for the sheriff' s department. We can go back and put the sheriff' s department inside that building and eliminate that outside building with that. Is that correct?

John Duncan – Yes.

Commissioner Hollifield – Then that will take care of that we won't have to worry about a sheriff's department because it will be inside of the building.

John Duncan – We can take care of the metal building by putting masonry on it.

Commissioner Hollifield – I am getting to that. To my opinion and the way I look at this is – I want something that we can turn up that drive out there with our new courthouse, which is going to be paid off. I want something that people are going to be proud of. I don't want to look at the aspect of people saying why did you put up a metal building like a barn for a jail. That is just some things and questions that come up. Another thing I don't like about it is hauling these meals from across town from some other provider. If we are going to put up a jail then we need to run it like one. To me hauling is not feasible. One reason being the sanitation part of it. Who can supply it around here? One thing we need to keep in mind is we want the very best for the people in this county. I say that because the question that comes up is the cost. We don't have the money. We don't have the money. We've got to understand there is going to be a tax reval in 2008 that is coming up. We have a lot of big fine homes that's been built and people buying a lot of land from out of state. We are going to have a larger tax base. We are not going to stay at this level from here on in this county. We need to look at that. I think the people ought to have input and I welcome the comments from the people here. I wish this room was filled up three times more than this. This is important to the citizens of the county. We will never forget the incident that happened in the jail we had were we lost eight inmates there. A lot of families lost loved ones there and we want the best. Matter of fact it wouldn't bother me for this to be a referendum to be put on the ballot to be voted on. That would make sense to me to let the people decide. What is this metal building going to cost?

John Duncan – Right now, probably between 2 million to 2.5 million.

Chairman Masters – Not to interrupt, but to interrupt you, it really is not a metal building. It is a metal exterior.

John Duncan – It is a metal structure.

Commissioner Hollifield – But it is still without a kitchen.

John Duncan – Right.

Commissioner Hollifield – And it is without a sheriff's department,

John Duncan – Yes.

Commissioner Hollifield – That is two things that concerns me. The thing that makes sense to me is – I would like to see everything done at one time. We have this loan from the department of agriculture. We have this money and I don't see that it is going to take 4.5 million to do it and do it all at one time and be done with it. We've wished over a thousand times the courthouse was bigger. To me it would just make sense to do it all at one time and that includes the sheriff's department in.

John Duncan – From what I hear you say the sheriff department and the kitchen are important.

Commissioner Hollifield – It is to me and I think it will be to the citizens of this county.

Chairman Masters – Construction techniques are the same?

John Duncan – I don't think we would suggest going back to a reinforced concrete building with steel trusses or frames. I think we can get something less expensive that would be just as durable.

Commissioner Hollifield – Ok that's fine. I think you can work out the structure part of it. But it concerns me transporting food back and forth across the vendors throughout this county. We are not even sure there is anybody to do it. I realize the cost on it. There are some things we need to look as citizens as we build this jail. It is going to be an important part as we pay for it. I want it to set there for years to come, not to have to back and replace and redo, add on or rebuild. That is all I have.

Commissioner Byrd – John if you will you've got 40 beds does that include a future expansion?

John Duncan – No.

Chairman Masters – It would be a total of 64 with the expansion.

Commissioner Byrd – Just as we are talking about right now. We have 40 beds on that. You have 36 on the USDA. You are talking about 4 more cells.

John Duncan – On that one we had double cells.

Commissioner Byrd – You can add 4 cells to it. I am trying to make the differences in them. The original one or number one I am going to call for the scheme had a sheriff's office and number two which is the metal structure. If we could do about the same number of inmates using the new techniques that you have here with number one as number two. You have about the same bed space. You are able to do with 3,000 less square feet.

John Duncan – The USDA one will be a little bit bigger just because its layout is not as efficient. But if we started with that one with the sheriff's department attachment we would try to get that one as efficient as we could. Right now we are trying to compare apples and oranges.

Commissioner Byrd – That is why I am trying to get all the differences up and I am looking through this thing and we have a real large holding cell in the first one. In the second one we don't have one.

John Duncan – Right.

Commissioner Byrd – That is some of where the square footage is lost.

Chairman Masters and Commissioner Hensley – You still got two holding cells.

Commissioner Byrd – Right. They are just small, one person holding cells. There are two smaller holding cells and one large up here plus two holding cells in the first one. The difference is one large holding cell. That is my point. The first one also you have a female dressing room.

John Duncan – If the jail gets much bigger than this, you will probably need a female dressing room. If you don't have many females you can probably dress them out in either one of the bathrooms or you could you the other dressing room, because you won't have that much traffic.

Commissioner Byrd – On the isolation cells – We have two on number one and one in the second one.

John Duncan – I think you are going to see a difference in the interview rooms. I think we had a magistrate in the first one; we don't in the second one.

Commissioner Byrd – What I am getting at is there are a lot more benefits still in number one.

John Duncan – That is correct.

Commissioner Byrd – You are not simply just saying we have all the things in number two that we had in number one. It is really not that way.

John Duncan – That is correct.

Commissioner Byrd – There are other things that need to be considered in the dollar value, two medical cells, no examination room in the second one like we had in the first one. Think we already hit on the kitchen part. Public lobby.

John Duncan – That comes out of the visitation. When we did this one we were trying to cut square footage, we figured well maybe you could set up visitation off site. I think we have come around to where you need visitation on site. We are going to have to work something in here.

Chairman Masters – Video visitation.

Gary Runion – Video visitation was for off site if we have something on site we can either do it by video visitation or with a glass in between to where people could face each other. With the video feed you are not having to move any one back and forth.

Commissioner Byrd – So you got the public lobby that you have set up in number one and I worked in a prison for four years so I have a little feel for this. I have never designed any but I have worked in one. I think the public lobby will very important whether it is in one or two. These are things I am saying we definitely have. Being able to see that visitor is important to that inmate moral and the temperament. The magistrates office I think we need that in there also. Your medical cells, really the ones we have here we really need, because you might have two or three people sick at a time. Your isolation cells, in my opinion you need to have two. If you have someone in an isolation cell it is generally because they were fighting with someone else. You need a place to put at least two inmates.

John Duncan – We brought up the question about having a day room associated with the isolation and we may need to address that.

Commissioner Byrd – Female dressing area the incidents of keeping male and female population separate the less possible contact we have with that the better off we will be and the easier that jail will be to run. I think I heard you say something about staffing. What are you looking at for staffing for number two the metal structure?

John Duncan – I think they both will be similar. What we have done is made the control rooms relationship a little more feasible. The staffing is going to depend on population. The big problem with staffing is movement of the inmates. We have designed for a bare minimum of two and I think we will have to sit down with the sheriff and work out a staffing pattern for the different amounts of population. But as far as the efficiency of observing inmates this is about as efficient as you are going to get.

Commissioner Byrd – So your staffing is about the same as far as requirement between the two. County Manager Whitson what are your insights on what you are planning on doing with the staffing on this, or what are you suggesting?

County Manager Whitson – It is going to be any where from six to eleven. If you are just operating a sixteen- bed portion of it, six staff. If you start having inmates in the other cells you are getting closer to eleven.

Commissioner Byrd – So if you have six on staff if you are operating how many beds?

County Manager Whitson – That would be the bare bones. I am not saying that I am recommending that I am saying that would be the bare bones. That puts you one officer per shift. If you move on up and I think we do need to move up beyond six really you are looking at between eight and eleven.

Commissioner Byrd – Ok. Actually, I spoke with Mr. Dan Wood with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He is a Criminal Justice Consultant. He has been up here before and I wanted to get some feed back on what he thought about up here. His words to me or what he strongly recommended a minimum of ten officers and having one administrative officer over the jail and to have to officers on duty at all times male and female.

John Duncan – This is something we will have to run by the PFS folks because I have not confirmed that. All the things that you are talking about are the things that we need to get into to make the right decision.

Commissioner Byrd – This is his job and he is a Criminal Justice Consultant. I agree completely with that. If you are going to run two and number one as having a least two people there and on staff at all times. With one person I think that is dangerous, insufficient for the safety of the public and the inmates. Also when we have a female inmate we need a female officer on staff simply because even if they can take a shower and not have to move them it is a good place for them to try to harm themselves. The officers are also there to protect and help the inmates. You need that female officer to be able to enter that shower. If you don' t then you start opening up a situation that we do not need to be in.

Chairman Masters – Phil if I could interrupt you just for clarification on that point. What is our average female population?

Sheriff Fox – Two or three for a daily average. I have seen as many as eight.

Chairman Masters – But for averaging purposes to get at Phil' s point you would say two to three.

Sheriff Fox – Yes.

Commissioner Byrd – That is were I kind of feel on the security of what we are doing on staffing. The food preparation I did ask him about that because I understood that was going to be an issue. There is not any real answer to that I have been able to find. If we do contract out to local businesses they are going to hold that over our heads in a matter of way of looking at. From what I remember there will have to be a dietician that prepares these meals. They have to meet a minimum qualification of 2000 calories per day.

John Duncan – If you are going to cater it, how you are going to cater it, how are you going to transport it and is all that acceptable, balance that number against the cost.

Commissioner Byrd – I think it may be the concept that it is as simple ordering fifty plates or twenty plates from somewhere and it is not like that.

John Duncan – Yancey County is not building a kitchen. Clay County is building a kitchen. Cherokee is building a kitchen. We just need to make sure if you are going to add a kitchen we need to make sure it won' t cost you a fortune.

Commissioner Byrd – As far as my part on the kitchen we definitely need the space there so that if we do need it is there. You made a statement a few minutes ago concerning pricing that we will never see the prices we had last two or three years again. I feel that we won' t ever see the ones we have now again.

John Duncan – You are probably right.

Commissioner Byrd – Those are a lot of the things we need to consider. I do think that as part of the cost I do think we need to put the sheriff' s facility up there also to make it a part of that. I think it is a good flowing situation. I think we need a jail administrator that is over the jail. They will be separate entities but if you do have a situation in the jail you have the sheriff' s office there close. It also gives us more space over here that we can use. Those are the questions that I have and that we really need to look at decide on. As far as putting this on the ballot, I asked Jennifer to check on that today for me. You can do it. It will cost us \$20 if we have representatives to – when the state goes back into session and Representative Frye could get a local bill through on a referendum for us.

Commissioner Hensley – I think Ken should decide if he wants the sheriff' s department up there or not. But with all the comments we have had here I want to cut mine kind of short. I think that you will get all this together and his hold a planning session to set and discuss this at your earliest convenience where you can run cost figures by us because you don' t have them tonight.

John Duncan – We have been working along with this and I have told Ryan we are going to have a contract. We ran out of money on the first study a long time ago. We will work with you however. Everything that has been brought up has been good points that Commissioners need to study and we need to provide the numbers that is part of the design process that we do.

Commissioner Hensley – Instead of going until nine or ten o' clock at night have a day set aside to meet and discuss this.

Chairman Masters – If I may suggest there what we ought to do is let Ryan work with John through a time frame where representatives from the Board could actually go down and see some of these facilities.

John Duncan – If we can get on board, we will look at anything you want to look at, we' ll draw, we' ll price and put it together for you and so forth. That is really the process of getting the design itself. It is very difficult in the very beginning just to come up with the sketch because you do have all these questions and that is part of our work.

Commissioner Hensley – I would also recommend that since it looks like we are going to use you all let' s enter into a contract.

Chairman Masters – I think that probably is an area that we probably need to let Lloyd get involved in.

County Attorney Hise – I certainly think you need to get paid.

Chairman Masters – I want to ask you Ken where you would want your office what you think about the food preparation area etc.

Sheriff Fox – I was thinking a while ago does this have a laundry room.

Gary Runion – Yes.

John Duncan – I think Phil did a pretty good comparison between the two plans.

Chairman Masters – Basically this is where we are in a nutshell. We can build a jail or we can build a law enforcement center.

Sheriff Fox – Keith, my biggest concern would be keeping it adequately staffed. If we have the right number of jailers up there I am not that big on really being there. I mean if we are here we are close. May be the perfect thing would be to there, but I am content to be here. The big thing is having enough to run it. I know like in Polk County I think Rutherford County keeps all their females and some of their males. I think they' ve been told they are going to have to keep two to a shift and it is a small jail. I think their population is about two thousand more than ours. To me the safety and the security and keeping it staffed good with someone is more important than us actually being there. Of course I wouldn' t fuss if I was there, but I am content where I am.

Chairman Masters – What do you think about the food prep?

Sheriff Fox – There are so many regulations that you have to go by. You have to have a written contract signed by whomever you get it with. If we can get something worked out on that it would be great something reliable, in the past we tried it and had a hard time making it work. The menu has to be posted a week in advance and it has to be prepared by a certified dietician.

Chairman Masters – If the meals came from the prison, if a situation is worked out with the prison I am sure they would have a dietician on staff so that those meals would be meeting all the requirements. Is there any difference between jail and prison requirements?

John Duncan – Not that I am aware of.

Chairman Masters – So a feasible alternative would be catering from our local prison, as far as dietary requirements etc.

John Duncan – Yes.

Chairman Masters – That is what I have been thinking on this if we could cater from the prison it seems it would be very feasible.

Sheriff Fox – Getting it here is another issue.

Chairman Masters – What are those requirements is it two hot meals a day or one?

Sheriff Fox – They are real particular about keeping them hot too. We probably need to sit down with one of the state inspectors and work on this.

Chairman Masters – Any thing about the configuration of it?

Sheriff Fox – I really haven' t had an opportunity to really look at it.

Chairman Masters – Would you look at it and let us know what you think?

Sheriff Fox – I will.

Commissioner Saylor – I have one question for John. In the second plan there is just one isolation cell is there reason why any other cell that is not occupied could not be used as an isolation cell.

John Duncan – The real issue there is whether we put in a small day room - in a small day room where you could hold a person for more than twenty-four hours.

Commissioner Byrd – On the cosmetic part in reality the southeast portion of this building is really visible from all over town it would be of concern that we make that look attractive. What is the cost for covering the outside of the building?

John Duncan – About \$80,000 to \$100,000. Take our design and get an estimate going and give you all some ideas on all the cost.

Commissioner Byrd – If we go through with this building we have to fund as far as running it. That will be the costly part.

County Manager Whitson – I have some numbers on that.

Chairman Masters – That is why we need to be conservative on what we build. There is not a person on this Board that would not want to staff it adequately. We want everybody safe.

County Attorney Hise – Be sure that you are comparing all the costs when you are deciding to build a kitchen or to cater the meals.

Lisa Sparks – I have a suggestion concerning the catering. Why not buy one of the meals from the school system,

County Manager Whitson – I have checked in to the Child Development Center. I have had the Building Inspector and the Health Department in to look at the Day Care and it will take about \$15,000 to make it suitable. I have talked with the Director of High Country Council of Governments about providing two hot meals everyday that they are open. Then we will need to do another contract for weekends and holidays.

Judge Leavell – Just a couple of things. One I think everybody here would agree that safety has got to be number one. Second Mr. Hollifield I agree with you we need to think long term. We need to have a facility that the community and county can be proud of and will last. I think we need to have a lot of people involved in the plan, sheriff obviously, everybody that is going to be involved needs to have some input and not just – I love our new Courthouse, but we meet with Commissioners a few years ago. We had some specific recommendations and thought those would be incorporated. Something happened between that meeting and the actual getting it on paper. When you get people involved they need to be involved up to the very end.

Chairman Masters – Specifically on the design, number people things like that is really what I had in mind for you to expound upon.

Judge Leavell – I was more interested in what I had to say.

Malessia Wessinger – Again, I will just reiterate what Judge Leavell. The fire departments concern is the safety. If the Board would like we would like to be included in the safety recommendations.

Lisa Sparks – The Modern Globe building (Taylor Toggs) is sitting there vacant. It has been vacant for some time. This building has concrete floors. This building has office space. This building has a nurse' s facility. It has from what I understand a metal roof–

Chairman Masters – Made with metal trusses.

Lisa Sparks – Yeah, steel roof. Anyway I know when Taylor Toggs moved in there, there was a lot of things that had to be done for that building to become, to get a state inspection. This building already has the fire extinguishers. That building was practically set up for a jail. It is a fairly attractive building. Any additions that would need to be made would need to be made could be made out the back doors where the loading docks were. I think that would be a much cheaper way for us to go and it is something that should be looked into.

Chairman Masters – Actually, we have already looked into that probably about a year ago. I can' t tel you exactly everything that we found out, but the jest of it was that overall it would have been more expensive to go there than it was to build. Even though it does not seem like that could be possible.

Lisa Sparks – I know at one time that the man that owns it had said that it was better for him to use it for a tax right off. I do not think that is the case now. I understand that the Micaville Plant is closed. Is that correct?

County Manager Whitson – I have spoken with him about specific prices on the building.

Chairman Masters – We discussed that a little about those possibilities and I do not know exactly.

Lisa Sparks – I had mentioned it to Harry Anderson several years ago before he left and I still think that price wise that that would be or another vacant building in the county. There are some plusses to that building. It is still in city limits. It is across from the fire department and it has passed a state inspection.

County Manager Whitson – I would like to make a comment more as the budget officer for the county as part of my duties as the County Manager.

Chairman Masters – Before you do that then lets make sure that now Lisa do you have anything else?

Lisa Sparks – No, that is all.

County Manager Whitson – The more money that we spend, you have got to get that money from somewhere. Whether it be in loan payments, whether you spend it out of fund balance, whichever. Also, staffing this jail we have talked about costs. I did the costs to run a 16-bed portion of this jail and if you just run it with just 16 prisoners you are looking at a cost of \$375,500 per year and that is with 6 staff in which I did not recommend. I said it was the bare minimum. The staff alone, the six staff, an administrator, a lieutenant, two sergeants and two officers priced at \$198,210 year and that is paying about \$2,000 in overtime. I am trying to get the maximum use out of them. If you add four more staff to that you bring it up to 10 then you are looking at almost \$350,000 on staff, then the meals. You are talking about some real dollars here. We do not have that much surplus in the budget every year. So just like I said I am not making recommendations as to which way to go just please keep all of that in mind.

Chairman Masters – There is one thing about it I think we are budgeting about \$235,000 to Rutherfordton right now annually; and if we were to be able to the Courthouse payment which is to be paid off in 18 months roughly is about 200,000 or 235,000?

Finance Officer Parsley – Closer to about \$245,000 with interest.

Chairman Masters – So, if we start converting some of those correctly there at a later date it seems like we would almost be close to running the jail and make it wash without additional funds or without a lot of additional funds.

Finance Officer Parsley – You still have your jail payment though.

County Manager Whitson – I am not including the jail payment in that \$375,000.

Chairman Masters – If we finance the jail correctly and if we have any money to pay on it I think it can start to become feasible with an in hand amount of money or nearly operate it. By that, money that is already budgeted to some item that we can like the jail payment will be paid off if the loan payment became half of that amount roughly and we spent some of our money on it and then pick up \$100,000 or \$150,000 there by that with Ken' s what we are giving in there to transport people to Rutherfordton then we start washing or pretty close.

County Manager Whitson – What was the payment going to be if we borrowed the \$4 point something million? \$210,000. So if you do the USDA you are talking about the same payment that we have got on the Courthouse.

Commissioner Byrd – We are not talking about \$4,000,000 we are talking about half wasn' t it?

Chairman Masters – With the kitchen it was over \$4,000,000.

Chairman Masters – I think that with #1 was \$3.5 million without the kitchen and #2 was about \$2.2 million without the kitchen.

John Duncan – The jail itself would fair about \$2.7 million and then if you add the Sheriff' s Office and then we added some equipment– that is how we came up with the \$3.5 million.

Chairman Masters – Comments from the public?

Ed Reid – I would like to know what the difference is between the life span of the two buildings, #1 and #2?

John Duncan – I do not think that as long as we – the only difference would be in the skin of the building. Obviously brick will last longer than the metal. The metal is guaranteed to last about 25 years.

Gary Runion – You will have about 20 to 25 years and then you will have to repaint the metal. As long as it is maintained and painted on a fairly scheduled basis it will last you a lifetime.

Ed Reid – The brick building, the maintenance on that.

Gary Runion – The brick building you will not have any maintenance.

Chairman Masters – Thanks Ed. Carl.

Carl Braswell – I have got a couple of things. Now they will not be any combustible material in the building either one of them? There will be no combustible material where that it can be a fire?

Gary Runion – The only combustible materials you would have –

Carl Braswell – I mean cardboard or anything like that and also anything like that or the visiting cells. They should not be able to have contact with each other because they can contribute dope from one to the other.

John Duncan – It will be no contact they will have telephones.

Carl Braswell – That is what I was trying to say.

John Duncan – The only time that there would be contact if it is a legal situation where an attorney had to see a prisoner. The Department of Corrections very rarely –

Carl Braswell – I am talking about visitors. I know the Sheriff and like that can have contact I can understand that.

Chairman Masters – Okay, I have another one here. Thank you Carl.

Mary Hopper – I have a really major concern. You had fire and lost people. Other jails periodically we hear about people who have died from not getting medical attention. I would like to know if there is enough facility in this jail to have an examining room and to have medicine storage and if you already have someone on the staff who is qualified to handle these. I think that is extremely important.

The other thing is smoking. Apparently, I have not heard a word about prisoners smoking. I think a lot of them smoke and I am hearing that so many building are going non-smoking that I think that in terms of keeping your prisoner base quit and not creating a riot you are going to have to have some sort of facility for smoking. I have not heard about

that and the other thing is that where is the exercise yard. Is this going to be the 60 feet from the building fenced area you are planning for the emergency fire exit? Or what are you going to do about exercise for the people. I do not know how long someone stays in jail. Jails are not places I frequent, but how long are you going to have someone in there and are they going to have sufficient exercise and are they going to have windows in their cells. Because when you cut people off from the sky and from nature you are doing more damage to somebody that is already hurt and I am assuming that everybody in that jail is going to be somebody who is hurting psychologically before they even get into enough trouble to get in there and to take away from the site of the sky and the clouds and the weather is to me almost a criminal act. And the last thing was about locker space for their belongings. Everybody has a place that it theirs to put their stuff. That is all for now.

Chairman Masters – Steve.

Steve Murphy – Mr. Manager, the costs, the total costs of operations. The total costs estimated.

County Manager Whitson – Total? The only thing that I figured is I figured and it took about a half a day to do it is the operating cost on operating 16 beds on plan #2 with 6 staff, which I said was the minimal possibility and it was \$375,500 per year and that does not include the payment.

Steve Murphy – On #1?

County Manager Whitson – You are going to about double – it will be about the same on the operating cost if you fully run #1 or #2. The thing with number two is that you can just run a 16-bed portion of it.

Chairman Masters – Zoned.

County Manager Whitson – You can have a 16-bed jail, you can have a 28-bed jail and you can have a 40-bed jail and there is one control room for 16. I figured the bare bones minimum. The bare bones minimum with six staff is \$375,000. Now if you – now like I said that does not include the payment on the jail. If you add an officer it cost with fringe benefits roughly \$30,000 per year. If you add four more officers to that you are adding about another \$120,000 to it then your meals increase if you are keeping more prisoners, utility costs will go up, cleaning costs and all that will increase.

Steve Murphy – Does that include the Sheriff' s Department as part of the light bills and all that stuff?

County Manager Whitson – The Sheriff' s Department will add to the utilities.

Chairman Masters – Thank you, Steve. Jana.

Jana Reid – If I remember correctly that justification for adding a kitchen would be 40 inmates.

John Duncan – It is usually around 50 or 60. What you have to do is figure cost per meal. It has to do with transportation what you have to do to the food to move and how much you pay for the food and who you contract to do it if you have a kitchen. Normal studies show that if you get over 50 it is cheaper to have a kitchen. It may be cheaper to have a kitchen at a lower level, but you have to run the numbers.

Jana Reid – In my mind it does not justify our size jail does not justify putting in a kitchen.

John Duncan – Normally, I would say that our experience shows that a smaller jail that they have to cater. The big concerns with small jails is the source of the food. A lot of people that have the kitchens are not comfortable that their source of food would stay constant.

County Manager Whitson – I have seen some prices on government prepared meals. We have got a Senior Citizens' Center. I am trying to remember the costs of what it costs us to prepare a meal there. I believe we can cater cheaper.

Chairman Masters – Okay, Lloyd.

Lloyd Burleson - I go along with you on that. I believe that would be the best thing for the county. It would cut out a lot of stuff that we do not even think about now.

Gary Runion – If I may address some other questions. You were asking about the exercise yard and would this jail have a need. You have a couple of options. You have day rooms and you can use those as exercise or we can use the fenced in area outside along the backside of the jail that we had mentioned a little bit earlier where this control room can have a window to monitor inmates out in that area should that be a decision. You were asking about inmate storage I believe. You were saying lockers. There is an area for inmate storage, but it is not a series of lockers where inmates can go and get items in and out on a regular basis or anything that they would desire. It would not be concealing things. The third one you had is medical facilities. The medical facilities room that we show in this, in both of these are adequate for the proper care, allow for a physician to come in there and it is a question as to how often a physician comes in there and that is something that the county would have to decide. There is room for a medicine cabinet or a storage area where drugs can be locked up as needed, but in a secure place.

John Duncan – I think we can sum it up by saying that the code will solve and answer both of those questions.

Chairman Masters – That is what I think. What we will have to build is the minimum state requirement, which is what we will do.

I think what problem that we are really having here is chronologically what do we do next? I think that Lloyd's points are well taken that we are going to have to come to a point where we start looking at all of these issues, food and everything else. Looking at the dollars then start plugging everything back in to what we actually want to build.

That is where I personally am having a little problem. How do we need to start approaching that chronologically which ends up having to be with management. We need to somehow work through that. So that you somehow start developing that you might want to start consulting with Lloyd or John and then give us some kind of logical order to go by here.

County Manager Whitson – I think the first logical sequence is that there is going to have to be some decisions made on what we want. You are talking dollar amounts. I can run a bunch of different scenarios and stuff on what it is going to cost to operate it. I think we pretty much got some scenarios tonight on cost of facility and in my budget mind the cost of the facility or building the facility is easy. That

is something that you either spend so much money on or borrow so much money on or a combination thereof and you have pretty much a set payment. The staffing and running this jail – the staffing alone is going to cost considerably more than the payment.

Chairman Masters – And so much of that comes back to design.

John Duncan – I think that we have got the design at the point where we can't staff it with fewer people and it really comes down to how much you want. I have prepared a proposal for the schematic design that I had done a while back and I could pull that back out and give that to Ryan and let him take a look at it and he can share it with the County Attorney and I think that may get on the table all of these issues that you are talking about. If we get through that schematic design then we say yep this is what we want to build then we say we have to have a Sheriff's Office or do not have a Sheriff's Office. We have to have a kitchen or we do not have to have a kitchen. Then we will start doing the plans where we really start as you say spending the money.

County Attorney Hise – I think there are some decisions that you ought to make probably pretty soon. You need to decide do you want the Sheriff's Department there or don't you. That is a basic decision. They do not need to be designing a Sheriff's Department if you do not want one. Do you want the exterior plan that he has talked about tonight or the exterior that was talked about before? In other words do you want the metal construction or do you want the brick veneer construction. There are a lot of things there that you can begin to instruct them on. Kitchen you may not be able to, but you may be able to get the information to make the comparison to determine whether or not you want a kitchen or not. You are going to – there is a plan a and plan b here that you are going to have to start picking between at some point and time.

County Manager Whitson – The architect has been real good to draw this other. I appreciate the second plan.

County Attorney Hise – He is not going to continue to refine A and refine B without some money.

David Woody – My opinion is the Sheriff's Department needs to be at the jail. No questions asked. He is responsible for the jail 100%. Is that not correct?

Chairman Masters – Yes he is.

David Woody – Absolutely, he needs to be there. I am a taxpayer of the county and I think he needs to be there where he is supposed to be. Ever since the jail has been here – Brownlow Moffitt was in the sheriff's department. Coy Hollfield was at the jail. Ken Fox was at the jail. Everybody needs to be at the jail that is involved with it. I think that two or three of you all needs to go to South Carolina. Let him wine you and dine you. Let him take you down there and look at the jail. Base your decisions on what you see. Is this a good decision, bad decision? Do I want it brick or steel. Go look. If you don't have the money, I will give you some to get you some gas. Make the best decision for everyone in this community. It is all of our money, your money too. Make a decision. Let this man make the design. Let him make a design that everybody agrees on. Metal – suits me fine. Brick – suits me fine. Don't matter. Make one decision. Make it a good decision and then everybody will be happy. The sheriff's department needs to be there.

Blaine Biddix – I think you ought to let Ryan go ahead and do some studies on the cost of the food. If it is going to cost us \$80 a meal to cook it up there versus \$2 for the prison department to provide. No body right now knows unless Ryan does. What was the cost before per meal?

County Manager Whitson – The last year we operated the jail it cost us \$316,000 which was in 2001-2002. That was with 4 jailers, 2 cooks.

Chairman Masters – You are right Blaine. We need to get moving along on some of these things we don't know about.

Blaine Biddix – Yea, we can figure out what the building will cost and what the payment will be. Let's figure out what it will cost to run it and what it will cost to feed the prisoners. Does that include a doctor or nurse whatever is required. We need a price on it.

County Manager Whitson - This thing will not be operational for one and half to two years. I can't do set contracts now with exact figures for two years down the road.

Blaine Biddix – You can say this is what it is now and I don't foresee it going up more 20%.

Chairman Masters – What we need to do is for you (County Manager Whitson) to get with County Attorney Hise as soon as feasible and look at those very basic things we have talked about and then come back to the decision thing. We need to all think about all we have heard tonight and then let Lloyd work with Pease a little bit.

County Manager Whitson – Do you all envision if a sheriff's department is up there that current department staff help run that jail. That will be a big difference on what I have figured for staff.

Blaine Biddix – I don't think the sheriff's department can help staff the jail.

Chairman Masters – It is better to have Ken running the sheriff's department and specified people running the jail.

Mary Hooper – Isn't there some kind of state regulation on how many people you have to have anyway to run a jail? What are the regulations on staffing? Can't you just go with that and say whatever it is we have to pay it.

Chairman Masters – We will go with what we have to have. It will be determined by the number of inmates, if we build a kitchen and some other things.

Shane Vance – Two deputies can't watch the county and the jail.

Chairman Masters – I agree. County Manager Whitson and County Attorney Hise are to get together and start working on the things we have talked about and start tying in those loose ends. Let the Board think about what they have seen and come back together and try to reach some consensus on what to do and how to afford it.

Commissioner Hensley – Also, to let Lloyd to work on a contract with Pease Associates.

Chairman Masters – You (County Manager Whitson) will get some kind of written thing back to us and we will set a time to meet to discuss this.

11. **COUNTY MANAGER' S REPORT**- None
12. **BOARD COMMENTS**
13. **CLOSED SESSION** - None
14. **CITIZEN & AUDIENCE COMMENTS**
 - A. **Matters on the Printed Agenda**
 - B. **Matters not on the Printed Agenda**
15. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Keith Masters, Chairman

Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman

Phil Byrd, Member

Mike Hensley, Member

Jim Saylor, Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board

