

JUNE 9, 2004 – Committee Meeting

The Security Committee held a meeting on Wednesday June 9, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. at the Engineering Department to discuss security at the new courthouse facility.

The following individuals were present: Mr. Rick Millard, Mr. Marvin Collier, Ms. Shirl Williams, Judge Stone, Judge Wells, Mrs. Rhonda Skipper who was present on behalf of Ms. Ingle, Clerk of Courts, and Mr. Don Crim.

Mr. Collier explained that the only security planned for the new courthouse is panic buttons. Mr. Millard stated that the question is how much security is wanted and how much is to be spent on it. He spoke about the high traffic volume of those on probation and the best place to house the probation office. He showed a short video relating to security issues.

Discussion occurred regarding the need to plan for security now. They spoke about transporting inmates back and forth for first appearance. Judge Stone recommended planning for a staging area when transporting them to and from to prevent incidents from occurring within the corridors.

Judge Wells spoke about using security access cards for employees. He also suggested that the Marshall's Office prepare an assessment. They spoke about using a central access point into the courthouse and closing all other entries. They would only be used for emergency exits. Video monitoring is also a possibility. Judge Stone spoke about a site visit he had made to another location and how the person visually monitoring the videos had the ability to shut and lock the doors.

Judge Wells spoke about his desire to have first appearance by video monitors. Mr. Collier stated that that has been part of previous discussion. He suggested that visits

be made to other facilities of those who use various methods of security to determine which method of security would work best for Walton County. Discussion also occurred regarding the need for additional security personnel and the costs involved.

Mr. Millard presented information from Court Vision Communications, Inc. regarding security. He showed various types of video equipment used for first appearance. Mr. Collier stated that video visitation is part of the expansion program. Mr. Collier commented that security was a major concern during previous conversations regarding the location of the new jail.

Discussion occurred regarding the placement of a video monitor in the courtroom. This would give the judges the ability to hold video conferences with inmates from the jail or from other locations. They agreed that this is needed and would present this need to the Board for approval for additional funding.

Those present felt that the first step is to get the Marshall's Office to perform a survey. Judge Wells stated that he would speak with Sheriff Johnson regarding the discussion that was held and the use of video monitors. The committee felt that video monitoring should be included in each constitutional's office and they don't have to use it if they choose not to.

The committee agreed to contact Mr. Wayne Peacock, Court Administrator, to ask him to contact the U.S. Marshall's Office for a security assessment of the new Walton County Courthouse. Mr. Collier stated that he would proceed with contacting the Marshall's Office and then set up another meeting in an attempt to have all of the constitutional officers present to discuss their security needs.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

I have reviewed the attached summary minutes from the Courthouse Security Committee Meeting that was held on Wednesday, June 9, 2004.

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Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court

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Sue Carter, Tax Collector

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Patrick Pilcher, Property Appraiser

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Ralph Johnson, Sheriff

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Judge Kelvin Wells

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Judge William Stone

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Judge David Green

(Please review, sign, and return a copy to Ms. Shirl Williams, Assistant County Administrator)