

August 4, 2004 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Security Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 2004 at the Engineering Department to discuss security for the new courthouse facility

The following committee members were present: Rick Millard, Marvin Collier, Ralph Johnson, Patrick Pilcher, Bobby Beasley, Don Crim, Judge D. Green, Judge K. Wells, Martha Ingle, and Shirl Williams.

Judge Wells opened the meeting stating that a representative from FDLE was invited to address the committee. However, he could not attend due to a conflict. Judge Wells gave an overview of the last meeting stating the importance of making one entry point for the public. An electronic card system could be established for employees. He also spoke about the holding room and the possibility of using video conferencing for inmates for better security. Judge Green commented on how well the security system works in Pensacola. Judge Wells stated that consideration has also been given to installing a T-1 line for the South Walton Annex. Judge Green stated that coordination needs to be made between the new jail and the courthouse. He spoke about metal detectors and the need to look at various types before purchasing any. Discussion was held about the increase in citizen traffic in the courthouse due to all constitutional officers being located in the courthouse.

Security cameras in the courtrooms were also discussed. It was agreed that there is a need for cameras to be located in courtrooms and in each constitutional office to provide adequate safety.

Mr. Millard stated that there is sufficient room to run the necessary cable, but budgeting for these items needs to be given consideration. He said there is time to order the items if approval is granted.

Ms. Ingle spoke about the extremely large amount of money that is handled in the Clerk's office on a daily basis. She stated that an armored car service is provided, but consideration needs to be given to providing a secure office. Judge Wells stated that consideration needs to be given to security in the south Walton office as well.

Mr. Beasley spoke about using security cards, which could be an advantage to tracking who entered the building or a particular office. If an employee terminates, the card can be easily cancelled denying further access. Mr. Millard stated that the card system would also benefit the parking area for court security.

Marvin Collier spoke about removing county probation from the courthouse and relocating them to a separate location. Judge Green stated that it could work, but did not feel that it would be practical as much as they relate back and forth.

Mr. Beasley questioned if there would be a security system in each office. Mr. Collier stated that a budget would have to be presented to the commissioners for approval. He said that a system, like is currently in south Walton, would be installed in each office. Judge Green felt that security needs to be the least complicated possible for the public.

Ms. Ingle questioned who would be responsible for the main switchboard. Mr. Collier stated that the calls would continue to ring in each office as they presently do.

Judge Wells suggested rescheduling the meeting when the FDLE can be present. He also said that another Magistrate, with a judicial assistant, is being added in October.

Mr. Collier stated that he would visit different locations to obtain information relating to various types of security systems. Judge Green stated that someone needs to speak to the people manning the systems because of their familiarity with the system. Judge Wells asked Mr. Collier or Mr. Millard to contact some security firms who have systems located in the local area.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.