

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
 KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 SPECIAL MEETING-KEWEENAW COUNTY JAIL OPTIONS
 MARCH 3, 2016

A special meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on March 3, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI and began with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Bob DeMarois, Don Piche, Ray Chase, Del Rajala.

The meeting was posted on the Courthouse door and on the County website.

Motion by Chase supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Time was allowed for public comment and there was none.

Chairman Piche had some opening remarks about why the Board was looking at options for the County Jail. The option being looked at is closing the jail but going to a 72 hour lock up. What does this mean? This would mean that anyone arrested in Keweenaw County would still come to jail here and could be held up to 72 hours before they would have to be transferred to another jail facility. Neighboring counties gave prices between \$30 to \$40 per day to house an inmate. The costs over the last ten years have increased by the addition of correction officers to the jail, the county's expenses overall are going up including healthcare, deductibles and the MERS retirement pension plan. Another factor that is evident is that inmate numbers are down as society is looking at rehabilitating offenders instead of locking them up. So, the question becomes, is it cost effective to keep our county jail open?

The expenses for the jail continue to rise as the cost of employees and benefit packages have risen. This is one chart that was compiled for the meeting trying to show the costs rising:

YEAR	GROSS EXPENSES	GROSS INCOME	EXPENSE TO COUNTY		DAILY AVG # OF INMATES	COST PER INMATE
			NET COST	AVG PER DAY		
1991	\$17,570	\$4,755	\$12,815	\$35		
1992	\$8,889	\$1,020	\$7,869	\$22		
1993	\$13,829	\$1,038	\$12,791	\$35	0.69	\$50.73
1994	\$27,239	\$2,946	\$24,293	\$67	1.63	\$41.11
1995	\$22,523	\$13,722	\$8,801	\$24	2.59	\$9.27
1996	\$43,408	\$10,008	\$33,400	\$92	2.53	\$36.37
1997	\$54,336	\$31,774	\$22,562	\$62	3.50	\$17.72
1998	\$51,714	\$38,696	\$13,018	\$36	3.28	\$10.98
1999	\$56,381	\$8,202	\$48,179	\$132	3.14	\$42.04
2000	\$40,508	\$20,483	\$20,025	\$55	5.17	\$10.64
2001	\$35,546	\$15,078	\$20,468	\$56		
2002	\$34,931	\$15,650	\$19,281	\$53		
2003	\$46,476	\$14,449	\$32,027	\$88		
2004	\$61,466	\$14,881	\$46,585	\$128		
2005	\$64,796	\$13,156	\$51,640	\$141		
2006	\$110,967	\$37,590	\$73,377	\$201		
2007	\$125,873	\$20,667	\$105,206	\$288		
2008	\$108,858	\$7,160	\$101,698	\$279		
2009	\$123,036	\$2,533	\$120,503	\$330		
2010	\$137,113	\$23,015	\$114,098	\$313	4.30	\$72.79
2011	\$150,600	\$10,859	\$139,741	\$383	3.21	\$119.32
2012	\$137,325	\$8,279	\$129,046	\$354	2.70	\$131.12
2013	\$156,072	\$478	\$155,594	\$426	1.66	\$256.63
2014	\$203,514	\$19,384	\$184,130	\$504	3.17	\$158.99
2015	\$186,832	\$16,555	\$170,277	\$467	2.56	\$182.43

Here is another table which shows potential savings, realizing that the expected costs are just an estimate.

	2015 Costs	Expected Cost if Lockup Only
Cook	\$24,040	\$0
Corrections Officers	\$68,694	\$5,000
Hospitalization	\$35,488	\$0
FICA	\$6,760	\$383
MERS	\$10,711	\$0
Unemployment	\$1,442	\$250
Life Ins	\$95	\$0
Other	\$1,897	\$1,000
Inmate Health Cost	\$1,589	\$1,589
Janitor Supply	\$2,267	\$1,500
Contract Service	\$3,482	\$3,500
Meals	\$18,117	\$2,000
Lights/Heat	\$7,655	\$6,500
Water	\$288	\$250
Building Repair	\$751	\$750
Fixture Repair	\$2,117	\$2,000
Travel	\$1,446	\$500
	\$186,839	\$25,222

Savings at our
facility \$161,617

Cost at other
Facilities \$38,325 (assuming average of 3
inmates)

Transport Costs \$2,000

Annual Savings

\$121,292

(Does not include hours that
sheriff/undersheriff/deputies
cover jail 12 hrs x \$23
average per hr x 365 days =
\$137,240)

What neither of these show are the hours put in by the sheriff, undersheriff or deputies. The correction officers work for about 12 hours a day leaving the rest of the time to be covered by the police officers. Their hours are charged to sheriff etc, not to the jail. By closing the jail, it would leave more time for the Sheriff Department to patrol the streets, protect property and answer calls instead of having them cover hours at the jail.

Sheriff Lahti also gave a history for the jail from when he took over 24 years ago until today, reiterating some of the things that Chairman Piche stated. Undersheriff Olson was also present.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There were some questions from the public:

- What are the percentages of public safety vs. the entire county budget?
- Has Keweenaw County ever requested inmates from other counties to help with our jail numbers? The answer was yes, other counties were approached to house their inmates here.
- If the jail closes now and then we need it in the future, would there be grants or money available or would it be a burden for the taxpayers? This is an unknown.
- If the officers are patrolling more, wouldn't that mean that patrol cars would be needed more often?
- Would the savings go into the general fund? Yes

There being no further business motion by Eckloff to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk