

JOINT GOVERNMENTAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
Wednesday, February 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. in the Escanaba City Council Chambers, Room C101, 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, Michigan, Delta County.

Present: Delta County Sheriff Gary Ballweg, Escanaba City Mayor Marc D. Tall, Escanaba City Manager James V. O'Toole, Escanaba City Clerk Robert S. Richards, Gladstone Mayor Joe Maki, Gladstone City Manager Darla Falcon, Delta County Commissioners David Rivard, Tom Elegart, and Ann Jousma Miller, Steve Rose of Cornell Township, Bark River Township Supervisor Greg Johnson, Christine Groleau of Nahma Township, Wells Township Supervisor William Farley, Pete Brock from Masonville Township, Ray Young of Garden Township, Van Marenger of the Delta County Road Commission, and members of the public and media.

Escanaba City Manager Jim O'Toole called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation – Delta County Sheriff Gary Ballweg to speak on the Delta County Jail and Need for a New Facility.

Sheriff Ballweg provided the following history and information on the current jail:

The Delta County Jail (Sheriff Department building) located at 111 North 3rd Street, Escanaba, Michigan, was built in 1964 and had 44 beds. The type of the jail was typical for the era. In 1999 the addition (annex) was added to the jail (portion nearest to Escanaba City Hall), doubling the beds to now, an 87 bed facility. That addition was constructed of materials and fashion to be minimum security and as a ten (10) year stop gap until a new jail could be built. The jail has been consistently overcrowded the past six (6) years with an obsolete and understaffed facility which makes conditions at times unsafe for staff and inmates. Delta County has spent about one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in repairs and replacements to the building over the past 2-3 years. Those repairs were temporary "stop gap" measures meant to limp along for a while. The repair needs are constant and replacement parts for 50 year old fixtures, locks, etc. (especially plumbing) in a 24-7, 365 facility (highlighted by obsolete design) continue to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and will not address the safety and security of the inmates.

- Consists of maximum and minimal security areas;
- During the last 4-5 years, on average, inmate population was around 90;
- 1999 addition was constructed as a temporary solution to a long term problem;
- Inmate security, and medical conditions need to be taken into account for future jail construction;
- Staffing issues continue to increase;
- New Jail facility was needed for Delta County;
- Jail Study was accomplished in 2007;
- A multi-county jail study was accomplished and available to the public;
- Next step was to put a study committee together to determine location and construction costs.

Announcements and Items of Mutual Interest and Concern.

Those in attendance provided Items of Mutual Interest and Concern in their municipalities.

Joint Governmental Meeting – 02/12/2014 cont.

Committee Member Announcements and Updates.

Next scheduled meeting was March 12, 2014.

Hearing no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Robert S. Richards, Escanaba City Clerk, Recording Secretary