

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
September 18, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Sergiojan called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes

The August 21, 2013 minutes were accepted as published.

Jail Population Report

Chief Haugen provided the jail population information: The average daily population for July was 112 inmates, 82 males 30 females. August was 119 inmates, 90 males and 29 females. The jail capacity is 104 total inmates. As of Monday, they had 108 inmates in custody.

Undersheriff Barrett reported the jail control panel project is being worked on and other improvements that are being considered, including the HVAC system and roof. These improvements will add up to an additional 44 beds and allow for additional female inmates.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

No reports.

Criminal Justice Sales Tax

Susan suggested a sub-committee be formed to explore the criminal justice tax.

Undersheriff Barrett is encouraging the Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney and Judges to write a letter to the Commissioners supporting that a committee be formed to explore this tax. The committee would include all the areas that would be affected, including elected officials and citizens, to determine how to best use the money.

Cmmr. Neatherlin noted there are two options - the 2/10 of 1% sales tax and a 50 cent tax on property tax that would generate a couple million dollars.

Judge Finlay stated she would like to have a meeting with the Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Public Defense to review these options. Susan will send an e-mail to schedule the meeting and report back at the October CJWT meeting.

Undersheriff Barrett suggested that when the committee is formed, to invite informed citizens so the committee can be most effective.

Reimbursement for Extraordinary Aggravated Murder Expenses

Susan stated the application process opens in October to apply for reimbursement of extraordinary aggravated murder expenses to the Office of Public Defense.

Judge Sheldon stated Mason County has applied in the past. She noted there have been awards made to other counties for items that were not aggravated murder cases. She will ask the Superior Court staff if they can gather the information and write the application. Their office will send out an e-mail to the affected offices.

Susan asked the offices to start collecting the data.

Agency/Department Updates

DOC - Steve DeMars updated how they are dealing with gangs in the prison.

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Municipal Court - Judge Steele stated it has been difficult for sentencing purposes, because of jail capacity. Shelby reported the video arraignment process is working well, just having some equipment difficulties.

District Court Judge Meadows - have had excellent attendance at the public defense pretrial calendars. She expressed frustration with the jail not taking an offender who was court-ordered to jail.

Undersheriff Barrett pointed out there is a jail population cap for safety reasons. They have developed alternatives to sentencing programs.

Cmmr. Neatherlin would like to find a solution to deal with the jail population cap when a person is court-ordered to jail.

Judge Steele commented that the public needs to be educated on the jail capacity issues and how sometimes there are no consequences paid for crimes committed.

Susan suggested a committee be formed to explore alternatives to sentencing programs.

Bob Sauerlender pointed out this is not a new issue and noted the JDAI program works well.

Chief Haugen pointed out the jail is dealing with more aggravated murder inmates and mental health inmates and they have to juggle who to keep in jail.

Sgt. Conley stated they are down two troopers and very concerned with attrition through retirements. They have obtained county radios.

Undersheriff Barrett reported they have gone back to 5 8-hour shifts. Their reorganization is on track for the first of the year, north and south precinct. They now have three dog teams.

City of Shelton – Mayor Cronic reported there will be a public forum on poverty at the Civic Center tonight.

Judge Finlay reported the hiring of a new Chief of Juvenile Services, Jim Madson, from JRA, who will start October 1st.

Future Agenda Topics

The following items were brought up as future agenda topics:

Alternatives to incarceration programs

Criminal justice tax

Reimbursement for extraordinary aggravated murder expenses

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Assistant to County Commissioners