

From: Mike [mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:56 AM
To: Travis Snyder <TSnyder@co.josephine.or.us>
Cc: Whalen Jon CoAuthor Study Design <bear46@charter.net>; Walker Mike, JCHS/HNAHS/RA/G1/OCTA <hugo@jeffnet.org>

Subject: Re: Learning About Josephine County's Sheriff Office's Public Safety Services

Travis:

Sounds good. We will meet Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. How about meeting at the Elmers Restaurant near the south GP I-5 Interchange?

Our proposed agenda for the meeting has two items (Attachment). We will focus on Item # 2 by asking questions about Appendix B (i.e., Josephine County Sheriff Office's Public Safety Services: FY 2015-16 Budget) of Attachment.

- Item # 1. Continue answering any questions the JO CO Sheriff's Office might have about Study Design, and its major project, Study, while focusing on information and studies that describe the Sheriff PSS.
- Item # 2. We are interested in the JO CO Sheriff's Office PSS, including identified elective, necessary, and/or mandated services as policy. The descriptions and the standards could become part of a range of alternative solutions to be analyzed in the socio-economic impact Study. These descriptions could also act as the affected conditions analyzed for direct and indirect impacts from the Study alternatives.

Information to bring would be any references to papers/web links that help explain/clarify the Josephine County Sheriff Office's Public Safety Services: FY 2015-16 Budget. For example, one question that keeps coming up is the "ratio of 1 deputy per 5 inmates," and the 2006 publication, *JoCo Jail "Cap" - Figures That Don't Add Up*, by Gil Gilbertson, Josephine County Sheriff Candidate. See our Josephine County Jail web page at

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/jail.htm>. The introduction to Gilbertson's 2006 paper follows.

Out of 36 counties in Oregon, we are the only one to restrict the number of prisoners incarcerated at a number less than full capacity. We are filling only 120 beds of our 262-bed jail and releasing up to 75 felons each month. The Board of Commissioners, under direction of the Sheriff, proclaimed a ratio of 1 deputy to 5 inmates as an absolute. (emphasis added) Using this logic, we could have saved ourselves a lot of money by not building the new jail. (emphasis added) In 2003, a recommendation presented to our "then" county commissioners proposed a limit on the number of inmates incarcerated in our jail. The Board of Commissioners adopted the recommendations made by the Sheriff, agreed upon by the District Attorney, and Legal Counsel in compliance with Oregon law. See Oregon Revised Statute 169.042 thru 046, and JOCO Court ORDER No. 2003-023.

In reviewing the minutes of that meeting, it became apparent the "stated" premise of the ratio of 1 deputy per 5 inmates was based on square footage of jail space in the antiquated jail located in the basement of the county court house. This same formula was applied to our new state-of-the-art jail (emphasis added) without consideration of all the safety features included.

How does one determine the number of deputies required to operate our jail? A member of the National Sheriff Association Executive Board recently told me, "There is no magic JOCO formula because every jail is different."

Trying to understand, we will eventually be requesting from Wally Hicks, JO CO Legal Counsel, the above referenced documents: 1. Board of Commissioners adopted recommendations, 2. Court ORDER No. 2003-023 and 3. Minutes of Meeting. Do you have access to those documents that you could bring a copy for us to the meeting? More importantly, do you have the the analysis standards for the present deputies to inmates ratio, and its supporting analysis that you can share by providing copies for us? Supporting analysis might mean Gilbertson's 2006 recommendation which follows.

I submit the following for review – Commissioners: (1) review the need for having a "cap" using the criteria prescribed by law, (2) since the county is self-insured, determine what impact this may have, if any, on our liability, and (3) require a realistic assessment of the situation, and (4) Adjust accordingly. In addition, the Sheriff's office should, (1) develop a strategy whereby Josephine County can manage their inmates similar to what the other 35 counties do – emulate the demonstrated successes throughout the state, (2) better utilize available resources, and (3) use prudent judgment relative to early release of inmates back into our community.

Right now we are not confident in explaining the JO CO Sheriff's Office programs to our neighbors, and we anticipate making similar recommendations to the JO CO Sheriff's Office that we have made to the Juvenile Justice Department (BCC Attachment). For example, we believe a *Citizen's Guide To The Budget* can help citizens become informed voters, "For in the end, a budget is more than simply numbers on a page. It is a measure of how well we are living up to our obligations to ourselves and one another." Some examples of a guide's purpose follow (BCC Attachment).

- A guide provides a single place where the public can learn about the main features of the budget and gain access to more detailed reference sources. It also helps citizens to assess the impact on their own circumstances and on specific groups in society, including the effects on the burden of taxation, service provision and employment prospects.
- Broadening understanding of the country's public finances can help to frame more realistic citizen expectations, and to build support for difficult policy choices. It can also help to offset the influence of narrow special interest groups and to avoid public debates being conducted in jargon by those "in the know."

We are very much looking forward to talking with you. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Mike & Jon :)

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2015\Communications\StateholderLettersOnStudyDesign\JO CO Sheriff\JSPSS_Sheriff 5_SnyderFmWW_Email_062016.wpd