

JAIL NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING-5th Floor-Conference Room
APRIL 2, 2026 – 11:00 AM
MINUTES

Call to Order:

Sheriff Saaranen called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m.

Roll Call:

The following responded to County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

Jail-Needs Subcommittee: Sheriff Josh Saaranen, Captain Travis Dessellier, Faith Morrison, Justin LaCosse.

Teams: Mike Hamilton.

Guests: Paige Setter-Hallwachs.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Motion was made by Faith Morrison and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Approval of March 23, 2026 minutes:

Motion was made by Faith Morrison and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the March 23, 2026 minutes as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

New Business:

A. Update on Jail Committee/ Board of Commissioners

Sheriff Saaranen discussed the plans are for submitting the report to the Jail Committee to submit to the Board of Commissioners.

B. Progress on jail square footage document (Saaranen, Dessellier)

Sheriff Saaranen stated he had met with Travis Dessellier, Commissioner Britz, Jared Hyrkas. He stated Jared Hyrkas was not aware of the previous work done. Jared had emailed the group on the square footage and attempting to bring down the cost. He discussed having meetings with local contractors.

Mike Hamilton discussed getting the rough proposals that are not binding regarding the costs. Sheriff stated Jared may be calling them.

Faith Morrison stated nothing can be hidden on the Sharon Avenue Property to make the costs go up.

Mike Hamilton stated the Sharon Avenue Property appears to be a clean property.

Justin LaCosse stated Jared Hyrkas can navigate having local contractors build the jail.

Sheriff stated local contractors built the Delta County Jail.

Mike Hamilton discussed the free standing pods.

Sheriff stated any contractor or subcontractor will need to work with the MDOC.

Mike Hamilton stated local people like to see local contractors.

Faith Morrison discussed the rendering on the floor space and the ability to back out areas. She reminded everyone to not forget about the juveniles and mental health areas in the floor plan, and a small court room. She stated the language for the millage has to be done before the one can be written with guardrails.

Sheriff stated he has been looking at spaces, the importance for a secure area for evidence. He will get everything down on paper. He discussed everything being out for bid.

Mike Hamilton recommended having a County Attorney to see if it is legal to exclude out of town contractors.

Justin LaCosse stated an RFI is for information and the contractors will respond on what they can do.

Schedule final report to Jail Committee

Faith Morrison stated the reports will be put into Press Releases and will drive the direction the Committee will go forward.

Sheriff felt this committee can be done until a later date if needed.

C. Jail scenarios (new, edited, used in social media)

Faith Morrison stated Travis Dessellier's scenarios have been a highlight of the Jail Needs Subcommittee to see the operations at the Jail and Sheriff's Offices.

Old Business:

Faith Morrison stated this committee could tell the Jail Committee we are formally done.

Justin LaCosse shared his screen showing a presentation on reconfigurable space. It has high level requirements that could be created and handed over to Jared Hyrkas.

Sheriff stated he needs to get the opinions of the correction officers.

Justin LaCosse stated he will help prepare visuals if needed.

Faith Morrison discussed having information for the voters on the booking area and why there is need for additional space.

Mike Hamilton stated it is much more tense at the jail now compared to when it was built.

Sheriff recommended seeing what the Board of Commissioners does.

Travis Dessellier stated having a breakdown with rendering would be nice to see.

Justin LaCosse discussed the requirements needed to make something no one has made before.

Faith Morrison reminded everyone to remember the juveniles and keeping the MDOC involved. Faith will begin working on the final report to the Jail Committee. The Needs Committee will reconvene if needed. She will send the final report by email to the group.

Travis Dessellier will send out an email with the basement flooding scenario. Sheriff stated that the Emergency Director, Chris VanArsdale, should be with the Sheriff Department. If the basement flooded now, there is approximately \$1 million in equipment in Chris's office.

Next meeting date and time:

No future meeting is scheduled at this time.

Public Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Faith Morrison and seconded by Sheriff Saaranen to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

JOSH SAARANEN
Sheriff

JENNIFER KELLY
COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

APPROVED: _____
JK