

**Special Meeting, County Commissioners With Architects and Court Staff to
Discuss Justice Center Building Plan
Tuesday, August 15th, 2023, 12:00 p.m.**

"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at HYPERLINK "<https://countywatch.org>" "<https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at HYPERLINK "<https://www.okanogancounty.org>" "<https://www.okanogancounty.org> ."

Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (*via Zoom*)
Jon Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Justin Borst (JB), architect, MJ Neal
Luis Rodriguez (LR), architect, MJ Neal
Corrine Mouchon (CM), project manager, MJ Neal
Dennis Rabidou (DR), Juvenile Court, Family Services
Robert Grim (RG), District Court Judge
Hank Rawson (HR), Superior Court Judge
Susan Speiker, Court Clerk
Paul Budrow (PB), Sheriff

Summary of Important Discussions:

- MJ Niel's plan offers an addition to the back of the building to provide more space for the clerk's office and court administrators*
- A shared single point entry holds sway over separate main entrances for the future juvenile facility and the court complex*
- The Sally port entrance should be from the front of the building for security reasons*

LR (*referring to the building plans draft in the hands of the participants*): We've put an addition on the back side. Before, we were looking at multiple additions. Adding to the rear works better for parking, keeping the secure part of the building in the rear and making parking more secure.

JB: The Sally port (*closed area for loading and unloading of prisoners*) is better in the back on the right next to the future juvenile facility.

DR: You can't mix adults and juveniles...

JB: We have the option of building a second lane in the Sally port, an area for juvenile prisoners on the other side of a partition. *The two courtrooms would hold 60 and 120 people. The clerk's and administrative departments would have some common area.*

DR: You've lost the concept of a single security (*clearance area*) for the courts and the

juvenile facility. How is it going to flow? It's becoming less efficient, security and lobby in the middle.

LR: In meetings we were understanding a need for more separation between adults and juvenile detention.

PB: You shouldn't have us at the same time as a juvenal trial. If we build juvi here we're doubling the Sally port. *JB mentions the construction costs for that part of the building, has understood that not many people are going through juvenile court.*

CB: That area on the south end, that is our temporary security area. Is that where? When when juvi goes in, it would be in the middle.

PB: The back of the facility is a death trap. Driving around the back of the facility with that high hill. Someone could take us all out.

JB: So you want to come in *(through the front)*,

PB: Too many danger points in that whole facility... *AH says there could be a common Sally port and entry as long as they built a skywalk above it or made Juvi two stories.*

JB: That's possible.

AH: We don't want multi points of entry. *He asks if they could flip around the courtrooms and the lobby so the latter is in the front left and the courtrooms front right. JB says the Sally port is going to be the most expensive part of construction. PB says use the same Sally port but have doors that can close off an area.*

DR: I don't think we have to go forward with two stories, if you have a secure Sally port.

AH: Looking at the feasibility study plans, the Sally port was centered in back.

CM: The study doesn't consider parking. ...

DR: ...The question is walking outside to go to the clerk's office.

RG: ...We could have a covered walkway, and good sign posting.

SS: Would we lose work space if we add a clerk?

J: With digitalization you wouldn't need a records vault *(that figures in the plans)*.

They'd planned so as to keep staff out of the view of the public at the clerk's windows. SS says they'll need to reserve closed office space from time to time, thanks them for listening to them.

HR: How do judges enter the courtroom? *JB says he hasn't put the doors in yet. HR wonders how many correction officers would be escorting.*

RG: The Court Commissioner's office could be in the administration office. And people need public access to clerks, interpreter, and facilitator. *JB asks about open space but RG says they need to have some privacy. He likes JB's idea of having a kind of courtyard on either side of the entrance to the Sally Port, at the front left of the building.*

DR: I was surprised that on option C *(In the previous plan)* there were options for expansion of judges, administrators and clerks—the flow. How did we get (from there to here)?

JB: We consolidated the plumbing.

SS: The Prosecutor's suite is too big. *DR agrees.* SS: What about Public Defense? Giving people space *(you end up with)* a domino effect..

DR: In option C we've eliminated this Sally Port...

JB: We've added the addition in the back. The goal was to share the clerk's and administration's space.

1:29 - *Adjourned for regular BOCC meeting.*