

OCTOBER 30, 1989

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in SPECIAL SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Monday, October 30, 1989, at 2:05 p.m.

Present were Commissioners:
Patricia M. Glass, Chairman
Edward W. Chance, Vice-Chairman
Kathy A. Snell, Chairman Pro Tem
Kent G. Chetlain
Maxine M. Hooper

Also present were:
August V. Ellis, County Administrator
H. Hamilton Rice, Jr., County Attorney
Susan G. French, Deputy Clerk, representing
R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

Representatives of the various news media were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Glass.

IMPACT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM UPON JAIL OVERCROWDING

Tom Allison, Director Orange County Corrections Division, gave a brief presentation regarding the corrections system. The key issue regarding corrections on a national and local level is finding methods of maintaining law and order efficiently and economically.

He noted that Orange County has the highest arrest rate in Florida. He stated the cost of the criminal justice system is increasing. He addressed some areas of concern (i.e. prioritization in the judicial system; make criminals more responsible for their actions; establish better programs in jails). There are several treatment and rehabilitation projects in Orange County which have been successful. The Genesis project is a program dealing with drug and alcohol rehabilitation and the Phoenix project is a vocational program dealing with vo-tech training, etc.

MANATEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

John Stucker, Carter Goble Associates, presented status report regarding Comprehensive Jail Plan Project and addressed the jail project schedule in particular to Port Manatee Stockade Facility Expansion.

Officials present for discussion were: Charles Wells, Sheriff; Judge Thomas M. Gallen; Judge George Brown; Earl Moreland, State Attorney; Elliott Metcalfe, Jr., Public Defender.

Discussion: Determination of statistics based on number of jail beds; programs planned based on projections; crime rate increase in Orange and Manatee Counties; rehabilitation programs working effectively; incarceration; number of individuals on probation under supervised release; society problems; judicial system not responsible for overcrowded jail; statistic comparison of convicted felons serving time as to accused felons waiting trial; holding trials on Saturdays is not workable; drug problems; dealing only with small percentage of criminals arrested.

Sheriff Wells emphasized the reason jails are overcrowded is due to demands from the public for law enforcement to take action.

John Stucker addressed a diagram entitled "Manatee County Corrections System", showing the history of inmate population since 1973 and the projected adult daily population to the year 2000.

Nelson Meek, Meek Associates, addressed the plans for the Port Manatee Stockade Facility Expansion which will double the capacity of the existing Stockade facility.

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Discussion: Cost comparisons of two inmates to a room as to another type of dormitory; warranty of modular compared to other constructions; type of construction will be quicker to assemble; cost estimate per bed.

Mr. Stucker referred to diagrams entitled "Manatee County Detention Facility Development"; "Central Booking Renovation" and "Jail Population Management Program".

Fred Loveland, Probation Division, pointed out several areas of concern regarding the regulation of jail population: learning to manage the jail population continuously; additional staff needed specifically to work with the Sheriff as a "jail population manager"; and observing methods of incarcerating criminals in the community's homes, such as an implementation of electronic home monitoring.

Don Hunter, President of the Federation of Manatee County Community Association, stated a plan has not been developed for the solution of the Manatee County drug culture.

(Depart Mrs. Hooper)

Mr. Hunter stated that until the demand for drugs is reduced, management of the problem will not be solved. He noted concern regarding the judicial system, method of incarceration and addict needs. He stated the drug culture will die if the addict is removed from the drug dealer.

Discussion: Impossible to buy drugs for addicts; questioned the method to take the addict away from drug dealer; requested fast trials, motivational sentencing, realistic incarceration facilities.

(Mr. Chance absent for a portion of discussion)

Judge Gallen addressed the rules and procedures involved in the judicial system.

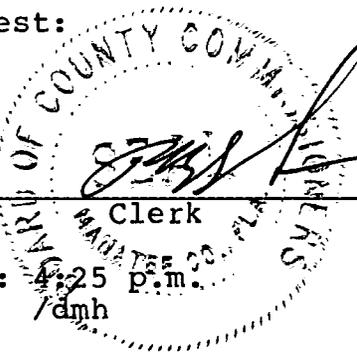
Discussion: List of misdemeanors awaiting trial; boot camp alternative; addressed "Operation Boot Camp"; treatment program available for children of addicts.

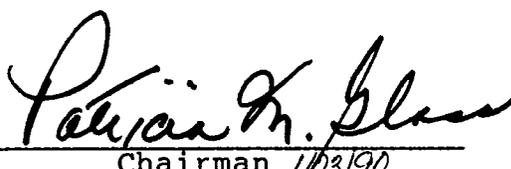
MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

APPROVED:

 Clerk
Adj: 4:25 p.m.
/dmh


Chairman 1/23/90