

Joint City-County Planning Task Force

Meeting Notes

September 25, 2013 – 9:30 am – Springfield Environmental Resource Center, Community Rm.
Meeting #5

Task Force Members present:

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager
Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator
Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor
Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director
Dan Patterson, Greene County Prosecutor
Major Kirk Manlove, Springfield Police Department
Sheriff Jim Arnott, Greene County Sheriff's Department
Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator

The meeting began at approximately 9:30am with a welcome from Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator, followed by a review of today's agenda. A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from the September 10, 2013 meeting. Before approval, Mr. Smith stated that he would like to discuss the Health Department presentation from the last meeting. He stressed that the County wants to be equitable with their funding and would like the numbers to be broken down where they can be further studied. Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager, asked whether this should be a task for the entire Task Force or for only Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director, and Mary Mannix Decker, Springfield Finance Director. It was decided that the Budget and Finance Directors would work on this. Meeting notes were seconded and approved.

Mr. Burris and Major Manlove, Springfield Police Department, explained the City's 2013-2018 Public Safety Capital Improvements Program. The improvements were broken down into three categories: Fire, Police, and Municipal Court, including the primary needs and costs of each category. The primary needs for the Fire Department include a new fire station on the west side of town, a practical training facility, and various improvements to the current stations. Mr. Smith asked about the renovations at the Old City Hall. Cora Scott, Springfield Public Information Officer, explained that the renovations were to include space for the Video Department and the Information Systems Department. Mr. Burris said that asbestos removal was currently the only budgeted item for this location.

Mr. Burris and Major Manlove continued with the needs for the Police Department. These include a new indoor firing range which, with the assistance of grant funding, could also be used as a tornado shelter, a vehicle driving range, an outdoor range and live fire shoot house, upgrade to various buildings/facilities including a new property room which can be used jointly with the Sheriff's Department, and a security fence for the police parking area. Jim Arnott, Greene County Sheriff, stated that the County would like to jointly fund and jointly use the outdoor range and live fire shoot house.

In regard to the Municipal Court, Mr. Burris explained that the City is currently working with a consultant on a siting study to determine the optimal location for a new municipal court to be constructed in the future. In addition, they are pursuing legislation that would allow for an increased revenue stream. Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator, emphasized the County's need to utilize their court space and that he has been in contact with the City's consultants in their study for

court needs. Mr. Smith expressed his appreciation for the City's awareness of the County's short-term need for court space. He also asked whether the City has an entire list of needs beyond what was listed under their building capital needs.

Mr. Smith continued the County's capital improvement needs for public safety, which began at the last meeting. The critical, most pressing, capital needs are the minimum security housing area for the jail, courtroom space for new judges, and expansion for the Judicial and Juvenile buildings. He explained that Room 212 in the Historic Courthouse would be used as a courtroom for the first new appointed judge. The County would need to provide a metal detector for the courtroom and office space for the judge. An additional one to two judges are expected in 2014 and 2015. Dan Patterson, Greene County Prosecutor, suggested that the City and County look at a collaboration of space, including completing a "courtroom use" study to determine the exact needs and to consider the possibility of sharing facilities and costs. Mr. Moyer stated this study is currently being completed. Mr. Patterson stated that the study should look at the various types of defendants within the system. Sheriff Arnott said he envisioned a "one-stop" shop where many issues could be taken care of at the same location. Mr. Smith asked that the Sheriff, Prosecutor, and Police Chief be responsible for providing information to the study consultants.

Discussion continued regarding the Jail. Sheriff Arnott explained that a remodel would involve adding more correctional officers. If remodeled with a higher population in the Jail, current staffing could not handle the population. Mr. Burris asked how staffing of the Jail was going. Sheriff Arnott responded by reading a resignation letter he received just prior to the meeting. He explained that he cannot attract employees or keep employees due to current wages.

As for the timeframe, Mr. Smith stated that the Jail expansion would need to begin soon. As for the costs, the minimum security area in the Jail, including relocations, is estimated to cost \$4.5 to \$5.5 million. The additional courtrooms, including relocations, are estimated to cost \$2 to \$2.5 million. He went on to explain that the County no longer has a surplus of space, which limits the options for relocating. In addition, the costs to renovate and bring older buildings up to code would be very expensive.

Mr. Smith briefly discussed the Safety & Justice Roundtable reports. He suggested that the report be updated with current information. Mr. Smith will send out an email to request updates be sent back to Judy Hill by October 9, 2013.

Mr. Burris discussed the "Integrated Plan" report, which includes the strategy to address a variety of unfunded environmental mandates, and proposes a joint, cooperative approach to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). This proposal asked that the different departments/sections of EPA and MDNR work jointly together, instead of separately, as to the required mandates. So far this proposal has been endorsed by MDNR and the Region 7 EPA Director. Mr. Burris continued to explain that these costs are expected to reach \$1.6 billion within the next 10 to 15 years, and that mandate costs would ultimately be paid by the citizens (low-income citizens would be paying approximately 18% of their income) thus affordability should be a large consideration.

Mr. Burris asked Errin Kemper, Assistant Director of Environmental Services, what would be involved with implementing the mandates. Mr. Kemper stated that it would involve additional research and data collection to identify specific goals and determine which actions would have the greatest impact.

Mr. Smith stated it was difficult to understand how EPA is compartmentalized and does not work together. He expressed his compliments to both the City and County staff for their work. He then asked Mr. Kemper about the consent decrees with the St. Louis wastewater issue. Mr. Kemper stated that the decrees resulted in a \$2 to \$5 billion cost.

Mr. Patterson asked how other communities were handling their mandate issues and whether there was a move on the Federal level to force the EPA to cooperate. Mr. Smith replied that there was much contention and adversarial environment on the Federal level. Mr. Burris added that while some legislators had sympathy for the problem, nothing had made it through Congress. He continued by stating that he was not asking the Task Force to solve these funding mandate needs, but to only make them aware of the problem and that environmental mandates dwarfs everything.

Mr. Burris and Mr. Smith agreed to continue working on non-public safety related issues.

The next meeting will be hosted by the City of Springfield on October 10, 2013, 3pm, at the 4th Floor Conference Room in the Busch Building.

With no additional discussion, the meeting was dismissed at 10:35am.