

DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
APRIL 8, 2021

CONVENED: 5:05 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: IN PERSON

Corey Bailey; Rachel Lynn; Sheriff Cserep; Michael Lapham; Steve Smith; Kelly Mattes, Lili Hand; Wes Husselman; Tom Drzewicki; Judge Grimm; Judge Squiller; Kevin Likes; Kellie Knauer; Tim Baker; Sheena Miller; Michael Watson; Steve Teders; Dustin Shipe; Derek Herb

VIA ZOOM:

Claramary Winebrenner; Amy Demske

Guest:

Kevin P. Wallace

The Special Meeting was called for by Advisory Board President, Kevin Likes, Board Members Steve Smith and Mark Olivero, along with Kellie Knauer, Community Corrections Director.

On Monday, April 5 2021, it was reported in the Evening Star that the DeKalb County Commissioners were looking at options for building a new jail. They were discussing closing the Residential Work Release Center and moving Community Corrections back to the DeKalb County Annex building. Their apparent thought in this decision was to use the existing Community Corrections building for the Sheriff's administration offices. THIS CAME AS A SURPRISE TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND BOARD MEMBERS.

There was no notification until the article appeared in the local newspaper.

The Commissioners have been looking at plans to re-vamp the County Annex building for the purposes of housing Community Corrections. They have been at the office building with a consultant determining how this could best be done.

There was much discussion on this matter.

There are many questions that are unanswered, for example: (1) Will Community Corrections still be able to apply for and receive grant monies. Programs that are now available to defendants may not be available if a move takes place. (2) Where will CC be able to have space available for meetings, intakes.

It was discussed that the work release program (according to statute) is under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff. Sheriff would make the decision as to who would eligible to be on work release, along with various other components. Sheriff Cserep, Director of CC, Kellie Knauer and Chief Probation Officer Michael Lapham are working on a contract to be put in place regarding the work release program and how parties work together to maintain this program.

Community Corrections was started with the understanding to IDOC that a work release program would be a factor in the future. If the work release program does not comply with Department of Corrections requirements, funding may be unavailable, depending on how IDOC views the circumstances.

According to Commissioner Mike Watson, he is going to encourage an evening meeting to be set so that people working in the day would be able to attend and voice their opinions. He also stated that there is a deadline of July 5, 2021 for a decision on the new jail to be made.

It was strongly encouraged for people to attend the April 13, 2021 at 1:30 P.M. public meeting in the Commissioners Court.

**IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE PARTIES IN ATTENDANCE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE FOR WORK RELEASE TO WORK AND BE IN THE CORRECTION FACILITY WHICH IT RESIDES AS OF APRIL 8, 2021, SO PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOW IN PLACE CAN CONTINUE AND BE OF BENEFIT TO THE DEFENDANTS ATTENDING AND THOSE WHO MAY BE ATTENDING IN THE FUTURE.**

ADJOURNED:  
6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Doneata Fritz