



# MEETING DOCUMENTATION

Planning • Architecture • Engineering • Interiors • Facility Management

**PROJECT:** Richardson County Law Enforcement Center  
Phase 3 Preliminary Concept Planning

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**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Falls City, NE – Richardson County District Courtroom

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**PROJECT NO.:** 130304      **DATE:** October 3, 2013      **TIME:** 6:30 PM

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<b>PERSONS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION/GROUP:</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NO:</b>
Randy Houser	Richardson County Sheriff	(402) 245-2470
Mary Eickhoff	Richardson County Clerk	(402) 245-2911
David Sickel	Chair, Richardson County Commissioner	(402) 245-2103
Mark Joy	Committee Member	(402) 862-2296
Kaytlyn Kennedy	Committee Member	(402) 224-0377
Charlie Fiegener	Committee Member	(402) 855-4395
Jake Ankrom	Committee Member	(402) 245-8775
Jerry Duerfeldt	Committee Member	(402) 883-2217
Kenneth Arnold	Committee Member	(402) 245-5641
Ray Joy	Committee Member	(402) 245-6996
Phil Bletscher	Committee Member	(402) 245-7294
June Bowers	Committee Member	(402) 245-0648
Scott Lundberg	Prochaska & Associates (PA)	(402) 334-0755
Jay Weingarten	Prochaska & Associates	(402) 334-0755

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the meeting was to tour the Brown County Jail in Hiawatha, KS. The overall goal of this study is to find the most feasible solution to meet the needs of the Richardson County Jail at the Armory Building.

- David Sickel opened the meeting and introduced June Bowers as a Committee Member who was not able to attend the last meeting, those in attendance introduced themselves.
- After opening the meeting, the Committee car-pooled to Hiawatha, Kansas in order to tour the Brown County Jail. Brown County Sheriff John Merchant escorted the Committee through the facility.
  - The 50-Bed Brown County Jail was built in 2010 at a cost of \$4.1 million, which was financed through a County sales tax.
  - Sheriff Merchant noted that the County decided to construct a basement underneath the jail for use as a public storm shelter and community meeting space.
  - Brown County operates the Jail with separate Jail staff and Dispatch staff. The County normally has two Dispatchers on duty and three Jailors. The facility is designed so that Jailors and Dispatchers can easily maintain communication.
  - Sheriff Merchant noted that the most significant “problem” he has encountered with the new jail is the heating and air conditioning system. The Sheriff noted that he has

experienced difficulties controlling humidity with the installed roof top units.

3. The Committee returned to Falls City and reconvened to share their thoughts regarding the tour. Scott Lundberg/PA noted the following:
  - Since the Brown County Jail is in Kansas, there are some features which cannot be replicated in Nebraska because of the requirements of the Nebraska Jail Standards. Kansas does not have Jail Standards.
  - The Nebraska Jail Standards require minimum sizes for particular spaces, including Cells, Dayrooms, and Exercise Rooms. Additionally, the Jail Standards require certain spaces be provided as a minimum, including a medical exam room and program space.
  - Classification and separation is a primary objective of modern jails. The greater ability that a facility has to separate prisoners the better.
  - Heating and Air Conditioning systems are a common item used to reduce initial construction costs which can add significant operating costs to a facility in the years following construction.
  - Overall, the Brown County Jail is typical of modern jail design by creating spaces that are safe for both staff and prisoners.
4. Sheriff Houser noted that Brown County has significantly more staff to operate their facility than he has available. For instance, the Brown County Sheriffs Department operating budget is roughly \$1.3 million while the Richardson County operating budget is roughly \$700,000.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for **6:30 PM on Thursday, October 24**. The Committee will meet at the National Guard Armory building located on the west edge of Falls City along Highway 8. The meeting will start with a brief review of the Jail Needs Assessment previously completed, followed by a discussion of a preliminary plan for renovating the Armory into a modern Law Enforcement Center.

BY:

  
Jay Weingarten  
Designer | Architectural Coordinator

October 8, 2013

Date

**If any of the parties present take exception to these meeting notes, please notify Prochaska & Associates within five (5) days of issuance for correction or they shall stand as written.**

## PROCHASKA & ASSOCIATES

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