WAYNE COUNTY BUILDING AUTHORITY MEETING

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Taken at 500 Griswold,

Detroit, Michigan,

Commencing at 10:00 a.m.,

Wednesday, July 15, 2015,

Before Laurel A. Frogner, RMR, CRR, CSR-2495

7/15/2015

Page 2 1 **APPEARANCES:** 2 Eileen DeHart, Chairperson 3 Fred Hoffman, Member 4 Jim Saros, Member 5 Frank Vaslo, Member 6 7 8 OTHERS PRESENT: Zenna Elhasan, Wayne County 9 10 Director Corporation Counsel 11 Pamela Lane, Wayne County 12 Assistant Commission Counsel 13 Mary Anna Daskas, Wayne County 14 Finance and Administration 15 Tim Johnson, County Commission 16 Warren Evans, Chief Executive Officer 17 Richard C. Kaufman 18 19 Bernard Parker 20 Kenyon Wilkerson, Intern 2.1 22 23 24



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- 1 Detroit, Michigan
- Wednesday, July 15, 2015
- 3 About 10:00 a.m.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: I'd like to call the
- 5 meeting to order.
- Roll call, please.
- 7 MS. GRANDISON: Eileen DeHart.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Present.
- 9 MS. GRANDISON: James Saros.
- MR. SAROS: Present.
- 11 MS. GRANDISON: Fred Hoffman.
- MR. HOFFMAN: Here.
- 13 MS. GRANDISON: Frank Vaslo.
- MR. VASLO: Here.
- MS. GRANDISON: We have a quorum.
- 16 CHAIRMAN DeHART: Before you move to approval
- of the agenda, why don't we start with Mr. Saros and
- 18 just share a little about yourself.
- 19 MR. SAROS: Jim Saros. I've been a member of
- 20 the Authority for about, I think about eight years now,
- 21 and for my profession, I'm a real estate broker in
- 22 Detroit and Grosse Pointe.
- 23 MR. HOFFMAN: And I'm Fred Hoffman. I'm with
- 24 Clark Hill, of counsel. I spent 20 years heading
- 25 Government Affairs at Chrysler, and then went to work



- 1 for Governor Granholm during the auto rescue, and in my
- 2 retirement I'm doing a number of things, including being
- 3 of counsel, and I'm also doing some things at University
- 4 of Michigan Dearborn, and I've been pleased to be on
- 5 this Board for about four years, and I'm also on the
- 6 Port Authority.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: I'm Eileen DeHart. I'm
- 8 president of the Board. I've been on the Board for
- 9 probably 12 years maybe, and I'm a former State
- 10 Representative, termed out in 2001. I worked under both
- 11 Mr. McNamara and Mr. Ficano as an Assistant County
- 12 Executive doing liaison work. I'm currently the first
- 13 elected City Clerk for the City of Westland. And for
- 14 those of you who probably don't know, I'm going to be
- 15 retiring at the end of the year.
- MR. VASLO: Congratulations.
- I'm Frank Vaslo. I'm from the City of Lincoln
- 18 Park. I'm not nearly as impressive as these guys. I'm
- 19 a humble public servant from the City of Lincoln Park,
- 20 former councilman, former Mayor, public safety, you
- 21 know, I got asked to be on the Board, I said sure, been
- 22 here for about three years now, and I'm very pleased to
- 23 do my part for the County of Wayne, my home.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: And I think you know
- 25 everyone else around the table, you know their bios and



- 1 that. So have any questions of any of us?
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Why haven't you finished our
- 3 jail?
- 4 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: That's my question to
- 5 you.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Thought I'd beat you to it.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: With that, is there a
- 8 motion to approve the agenda?
- 9 MR. VASLO: So move.
- MR. SAROS: Second.
- 11 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Any questions on the
- 12 agenda?
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Hearing none, all those
- 15 in favor?
- 16 (In unison): Aye.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Opposed?
- 18 (No response.)
- 19 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Motion carries.
- Is there a motion to approve the minutes of
- 21 March?
- MR. HOFFMAN: So move.
- MR. VASLO: Support.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Any questions or changes
- 25 on the agenda?



- 1 The record will reflect that I will abstain
- 2 due to my absence.
- 3 With that, all those in favor of agenda
- 4 approval.
- 5 MR. HOFFMAN: Minutes approval.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Thank you. Minutes
- 7 approval. All those in favor?
- 8 (In unison): Aye.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Thank you. All those
- 10 opposed?
- (No response.)
- 12 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Motion carries.
- Any Old Business before the Board?
- MR. HOFFMAN: Just a point of personal
- 15 privilege, we should point out we have a vacancy on the
- 16 Board as John Hindo, who would normally be here, is not
- here, because he's no longer on the Board.
- 18 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: And I'm sure that
- 19 Mr. Parker will let the CEO know that.
- MR. PARKER: I will.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Any other Old Business?
- (No response.)
- 23 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Hearing none, New
- 24 Business.
- 25 Action Items: There are none.



- 1 Informational Items: You have all the
- 2 information we have, Judge Kaufman, as he sits quietly.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: All of it? Well, you know,
- 4 let me just share thoughts that relate to the jail,
- 5 which relate to the County's financial picture, which
- 6 include a few of my opinions of where we are, and please
- 7 feel free to interrupt me with any questions you have
- 8 along the way.
- 9 We still have a significant need in this
- 10 County to figure out -- who invited him -- you know, we
- 11 still have a significant need in this County to figure
- 12 out what we're going to do long-term with respect to
- jail facilities. That problem didn't go away because we
- 14 mismanaged the completion of the supposed solution to
- 15 it. So --
- 16 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: If I may, when you say we
- 17 mismanaged, this Board did not mismanage.
- 18 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Someone did. Anyway, we
- 19 didn't complete it. I don't want to blame anyone, I
- 20 just want to say where we are and looking forward what I
- 21 see as the possibilities and the probabilities.
- What are the possibilities to solving our need
- 23 for different jail facilities? There's really only two
- 24 realistic options I've seen. I mean there's still some
- 25 discussions occasionally people talk about Mound Road, I



- 1 get calls from other crazy ideas to do stuff, but to me,
- 2 the only two realistic options that I see is to renovate
- 3 our old jail some way or to finish Gratiot. I'm not
- 4 saying it's impossible there's another solution, but as
- 5 I sit here today, from what I know, I don't see any
- 6 other realistic solution.
- And, also, as I sit here, as I look at the
- 8 long term and what I know, and basically it relates to
- 9 the fact that notwithstanding the problems with Gratiot,
- 10 a Gratiot jail, kind of like the one we had planned, has
- 11 significant efficiencies. Maybe it's not the 25 million
- 12 a year, but in my mind it's at least \$10 million a year,
- and my gut tells me it's about \$15 million a year to
- 14 have the Gratiot jail being operated rather than
- 15 Divisions 1 and 2. That's significant, even though it's
- 16 going to cost 200 millionish, plus 50 million either
- 17 way, from what I know, to finish Gratiot, you talk about
- 18 a facility you hope to be around for 30, 40, 50, 60
- 19 years, the cost of operating is more significant than
- 20 the cost of finishing. That being true for the long
- 21 run, it doesn't make it any easier to find out where
- 22 you're going to get a couple hundred million dollars to
- 23 finish a jail.
- So that's how I see the future, but how do we
- 25 get to the future? I mean when -- I want to say Warren



- 1 because he's been my friend for 33 years, so that's how
- 2 I refer to him. I don't mean any disrespect. When CEO
- 3 Evans took office, his first goal was to find out how
- 4 deep the hole was financially, and he found that out,
- 5 and he found out four significant things, that we had a
- 6 structural deficit of about \$50 million or 70 million,
- 7 depending how you look at it, and the difference is we
- 8 really need to send another \$20 million a year to the
- 9 pension system to avoid potential problems with it. But
- in any event, we had a \$52 million structural deficit,
- 11 we had 1.3 billion in unfunded health care liabilities,
- 12 we had a pension fund that was about 44 percent funded,
- 13 which meant it was about 900 million short of what it
- 14 should have, and the fourth significant problem was an
- 15 unfinished jail that, as I said, is going to cost a
- 16 couple hundred million, plus or minus, to finish, and
- even if we renovate the old jail, my gut is that's 50 to
- 18 100 million. And we have a study going on right now
- 19 that I'm meeting with the people who -- the outside
- 20 vendor, DLZ, I think it is, who started that study about
- 21 a month or two, I'm meeting with them I think it's
- 22 July 21st to see what they're doing and to talk about
- 23 certain permutations of what we might do short run to
- 24 save money and have adequate jail space.
- So the thing is we're doing what we can, and



- 1 we probably won't have answers for at least another two
- 2 or three months on what are the real numbers to look at
- 3 the option of renovating the existing jails, and we're
- 4 starting to do some activity to determine if we were
- 5 going to finish Gratiot, what size should it be. I'll
- 6 tell you right now, my gut feeling is the best solution
- 7 there if that could be a possibility would be to finish
- 8 that around a couple thousand beds and keep Division 3
- 9 open, Dickerson, which will give the County about 28, 29
- 10 hundred beds. I see that as the hope for likely
- 11 solution to that. But certainly the second is not going
- 12 to occur, and the first is going to be a problem if we
- don't improve our financial situation. The good news is
- 14 we have, and we're hopeful that that financial condition
- 15 will continue to improve.
- Maybe if you saw in the story today about the
- 17 budget that the County Executive just presented to the
- 18 Commission yesterday, it shows that we've solved about
- 19 half of the structural deficits so far with steps that
- 20 have been taken and with hopefully a consent agreement
- 21 that the Commission will approve after the Governor
- 22 hopefully confirms the finding of financial distress in
- 23 the County, and we can take the steps to solve the rest
- 24 of the structural deficit.
- So my optimistic view is that in six to nine



- 1 months we will have solved our structural deficit, we
- 2 will have pretty much solved our unfunded health care
- 3 liabilities, hopefully from certain sales of certain
- 4 assets we will have pushed up the underfunded nature of
- 5 the pension from 45, 44, 45 percent up into the 50s,
- 6 maybe get to the 60s in a year or so with some things we
- 7 want to sell and by freeing up some money to pay to the
- 8 pension, and if that's true, I think in six to nine
- 9 months that improved financial picture will allow us to
- 10 think about finding somebody who might be willing to
- 11 loan us a couple hundred million dollars to finish the
- 12 jail. But the thing is if our financial picture is as
- improved as I think it will be and as I hope it will be
- in six to nine months, you can't just start at that
- 15 point figuring out what kind of jail you want to build,
- 16 design plans, what kind of actual cost it will be. So
- 17 we're just starting to have discussions about maybe
- 18 putting an RFQ out, I think it is, to maybe find an
- 19 expert out there to help us finish out how we finish it,
- 20 and then go from there to figure out actually what the
- 21 cost would be on some way to finish it.
- 22 And as I said, my feeling now is we'd like to
- 23 find out, you know, if we could have a facility that a
- 24 couple thousand beds, almost 300 single cells, add that
- 25 to what we have at Division 3, and I think, given all



- 1 the dynamics of what we need to be a safe County and
- 2 house those people that need to be housed, and given our
- 3 finances, it would be a pretty good result if our
- 4 finances could improve to the point that we could figure
- 5 out a way to borrow the money to finish Gratiot, keep
- 6 Dickerson open, close Divisions 1 or 2, sell that
- 7 property, which is worth something in Downtown Detroit,
- 8 given what's occurred here, and I think that's about
- 9 what we see.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Okay. The record will
- 11 reflect that we are honored to have our County Executive
- 12 Evans here, and before we ask questions, I'd like to see
- 13 if Mr. Evans has anything he'd like to add.
- 14 EXECUTIVE EVANS: Amen. Thank you.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: We're very happy to have
- 16 you. I don't think we've ever had a County Exec come to
- our meetings, so thank you so much.
- 18 EXECUTIVE EVANS: You'll see me again.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: That's good. Questions?
- 20 Mr. Vaslo?
- 21 MR. VASLO: I'm thrilled that there's actually
- 22 some rational thought going into some of these decisions
- 23 that you're making, the renovation of the old jail but,
- 24 more importantly, the finishing of Gratiot. I think
- 25 that -- I'm just speaking for myself here -- that always



- 1 seemed to be the rational way to go. Mound was never
- 2 there, the State was never going to be our partner no
- 3 matter how much they talked about it. I'm thrilled that
- 4 you have decided that that's the way that you're
- 5 leaning. Is that safe to say right now so --
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: (Nods head.)
- 7 MR. VASLO: Congratulations on that. I think
- 8 you're moving in the right direction. I do always worry
- 9 about the studies, though, Judge. Man, this has got to
- 10 be one of the most studied projects. I mean there has
- 11 to be volumes of studies done on this. I hope that we
- don't spend a whole lot more cash on studying this. We
- 13 got some good plans together. The 2,000 beds, sticking
- 14 with what we got is the most affordable way, I'm sure,
- 15 to go, no big changes.
- The RFQ for the experts, how are we with
- 17 Walbridge and AECOM? Is there any hope of resurrecting
- 18 any kind of relationship with them or are we to assume
- 19 that we are done with them?
- 20 MS. ELHASAN: Resurrecting the relationship,
- 21 let's see, how do I answer that. Well, with Walbridge
- 22 we've been able to resolve our differences, you know
- 23 based on the settlement that we brought to your
- 24 attention, the one that you approved. We did maintain a
- 25 relationship within the settlement agreement, which, as



- 1 you know, provided us 20-plus hours of expertise and
- 2 services to be provided by Walbridge for that very
- 3 reason, to make sure that we keep a relationship with
- 4 Walbridge, they work in the community, they're big in
- 5 the County. You don't want to burn your bridges with
- 6 people who you might have future dealings with.
- As it relates to AECOM and Ghafari, we've had
- 8 some conversations with Ghafari. They are, in fact,
- 9 interested in maintaining a relationship with the County
- 10 and have provided some proposals to that effect,
- 11 certainly not ones that we would be entertaining anytime
- 12 soon, but that also at least exhibits the understanding
- 13 that we tried to maintain some sort of relationship.
- 14 AECOM is a little bit different and a little
- 15 bit more difficult because of the pending lawsuit and
- 16 because every proposal that they've brought to our
- 17 attention has not been a workable one thus far. I don't
- 18 know what the future holds. They'll be provided maybe
- 19 another opportunity to come to the table. I don't want
- 20 to be premature in my statements, but we are looking to,
- 21 as Judge Kaufman has indicated, possibly finish the
- 22 Gratiot site. Whether there's an opportunity there for
- 23 AECOM to be involved in that project, I think it's a
- 24 little early to say that. I wouldn't say it's
- 25 completely out of the question so --



- 1 MR. VASLO: Have we been able to separate
- 2 AECOM from Ghafari at all, because right now we always
- 3 say AECOM/Ghafari, but, you know, Ghafari, I never got
- 4 the impression that, you know, they were in it as deeply
- 5 as AECOM on the daily management, and Ghafari's a great
- 6 local community --
- 7 MS. ELHASAN: They are a reputable
- 8 architectural firm, correct. Separating them, I think
- 9 there's two really -- two ways you can look at it. In
- 10 the litigation we're not going to separate obviously
- 11 because there's some liability that at least we are
- 12 alleging there may be. As it relates to possible work
- on a project, yeah, Ghafari stands alone, AECOM stands
- 14 alone, but as you know, they worked very closely
- 15 together on this project. So as it relates to the
- 16 Gratiot project, that separation I think is going to be
- 17 a little bit difficult.
- 18 MR. VASLO: Okay. One more thing, if you
- 19 don't mind, then I'm done. The emergency manager that
- 20 we're talking about for the thing, how is that going to
- 21 work for us? Are they going to -- that's not going to
- 22 happen or it is going to happen?
- 23 EXECUTIVE EVANS: First of all, we all cringe
- 24 when you say emergency manager because we're not asking
- for one, don't need one; it's a consent agreement.



- 1 MR. VASLO: Okay. So you're trying to follow
- 2 that route.
- 3 EXECUTIVE EVANS: Right, and we're following
- 4 that route simply because it's the least onerous
- 5 opportunity for the County to still keep control and fix
- 6 the problem, and that's all we need. I mean, you know,
- 7 certainly that's not something I do by myself, I mean
- 8 the Commission --
- 9 MR. VASLO: Would the consent agreement cover,
- 10 and this is just nuts and bolts government -- sort of
- 11 stuff, the trouble I see with the County is you got the
- 12 Prosecutor's Office, you got the Sheriff's Department,
- 13 you got the Executive Branch. Would your -- or the
- 14 consent agreement, would those elected officials also
- come underneath that Authority, and do they have to sign
- 16 off on and agree to those?
- 17 EXECUTIVE EVANS: They don't. The Commission,
- 18 the County Commission will determine what of the options
- 19 are there, whether it's consent agreement or -- that's
- 20 not something that the Executive decides. Hopefully
- 21 that's the least onerous one and hopefully that's the
- 22 one that the Commission will determine is the one. If
- 23 you look at the budget information from yesterday, I
- 24 mean this is the first time in, you know, at least 30
- 25 years that both the Sheriff and the Prosecutor have



- 1 indicated they actually like the budget. It's a reduced
- 2 County budget, but they have been players in this.
- 3 We've been meeting with them every two weeks through
- 4 this process. So I mean I have never -- it's always a
- 5 fight between the Sheriff and the County Executive, the
- 6 Prosecutor and the County Executive. There is no fight
- 7 at this time, the budget has been reduced, and so I
- 8 think part of the problem that you're addressing, which
- 9 is do you have the leverage that you need to deal with
- 10 them, I think internally we worked out, you know, that
- 11 leverage just through regular negotiations, so I'm
- 12 pretty comfortable with that.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: If I may, the consent
- 14 agreement is simply a tool that will give the County
- 15 Executive latitude to open negotiations with unions and
- 16 some other things like that --
- 17 MR. VASLO: Well, Lincoln Park is operate --
- 18 we're under emergency managership right now. We were
- 19 given the option of a consent agreement. The council at
- 20 the time rejected it because they thought that the
- 21 reporting aspects of it were too onerous and that it
- 22 would have just been more streamlined and easy for an
- 23 emergency manager to come in and deal with it firsthand.
- 24 That was the direction that the City of Lincoln Park
- 25 took. You know, I wanted to try it, but the council,



- 1 you know, unfortunately I didn't have -- you know, you
- 2 don't have a veto on that stuff but --
- 3 EXECUTIVE EVANS: I think the nice thing about
- 4 a consent agreement is it's just that, it's an
- 5 agreement. The Legislative Branch and Executive Branch
- 6 will sit down and determine just what powers need to be
- 7 conveyed and which don't be and --
- 8 MR. VASLO: Well, they were very -- frankly,
- 9 for us, the consent agreement was very one-sided, they
- 10 told us, and, you know, it was -- it's a tough way to
- 11 go, and I hope that you can do it, because the first
- 12 thing the emergency manager did when he came to Lincoln
- 13 Park was cut the elected salaries in half, and you
- 14 should tell them that, because if there's any doubt of
- 15 an emergency manager, remember what he did then so --
- 16 cut the elected salaries in half.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: So you can let the County
- 18 Commissioners know that.
- 19 MR. VASLO: Yes, exactly, quit fooling around
- 20 down there. That's all I have. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Mr. Hoffman, anything?
- MR. HOFFMAN: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair,
- 23 just a couple observations and questions and comments,
- 24 and first want to -- very much appreciate the focus of
- 25 this Administration on this issue. Although others have



- 1 paid attention to it, I really get a sense that the team
- 2 in the last several months has really worked hard at
- 3 trying to come up with some positive results and
- 4 ultimately bring us to a point where we can all agree.
- 5 We have great staff, and I'd be remiss if I didn't use
- 6 the opportunity to thank you for continuing to provide
- 7 our administrative staff, particularly Audricka, who is
- 8 phenomenal, and Mary Anna, who does great work in terms
- 9 of operations. So I think that's an important part of
- 10 the linkage.
- I'm not sure that we've always felt as though
- 12 we were on the team in terms of resolving the issue, and
- 13 I think if I could leave a message from a process
- 14 standpoint, we want to be players on the team and we
- 15 want to participate. There are some people on this
- 16 Board who probably know more than anybody in the world
- 17 about this project, and I'm -- both sides of me here,
- 18 and to not take advantage of that resource I think would
- 19 be foolhardy. So I just put that out there that I think
- 20 it's important.
- Going forward, in terms of my personal
- 22 feeling, I'm still kind of a Mound guy, if we can make
- 23 it happen. I would not do somersaults backwards in
- order to make that happen because it's all about money,
- 25 but I would leave enough band width of whatever kind of



- 1 ear to the world that's out there to see if there's some
- 2 creative solutions that get us to that point,
- 3 particularly with multijurisdictional projects, and if
- 4 we could work out something with the Feds or the City or
- 5 the State or collaboratively all to solve a Criminal
- 6 Justice Center issue, a complex, to me, that would be a
- 7 much preferred solution than trying to put jails in the
- 8 middle of our entertainment district, although that may
- 9 be kind of the direction that it kind of wants to be.
- 10 But all I'm saying is don't totally shut the door, in my
- 11 one-fifth of the total here, to the possibilities that
- 12 might exist to something creative outside of the current
- 13 two alternatives that you posed.
- Two specific areas that I'd like you to
- 15 address, your Honor, if you wouldn't mind, and one is
- 16 the bond issue and whether or not we are doing what we
- 17 need to do at the moment to preserve the status that we
- 18 have with the IRS and the Federal Government, whether
- 19 that's a political issue or a tax and legal issue, and
- 20 at least how you're thinking about it right now, because
- 21 that's an important part of future revenue stream and
- 22 something that this Board has been paying a lot of
- 23 attention to and are very concerned about, so I'd like
- 24 if you wouldn't mind addressing that issue.
- And then, secondly, a matter that you didn't



- 1 raise that I think that gave -- that I think is an
- 2 important part of the whole question, and that is the
- 3 flow to the jail. And when I saw that you were assigned
- 4 to this project, I did backflips because I know that you
- 5 can talk to the Courts, and the Courts have not always
- 6 talked to the folks who are running the jail. And if we
- 7 can keep people out of going into the jail, it limits
- 8 the number of facilities that we have to have, and there
- 9 are so many other alternatives that you know of and your
- 10 colleagues know of, that by being creative with the
- 11 judicial side we may solve some of our problems on the
- 12 capital side.
- So if you could address the bond issue matter
- 14 and the alternative sentencing or alternative site
- 15 question, that would be great.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Wow, there's a lot there. Let
- 17 me just make brief comments on Mound Road. We have not
- 18 rejected anything out of hand. In fact, we've had a
- 19 number of meetings with the State combined with Mr.
- 20 Gilbert's interest in purchasing the property. It's
- 21 just math. It's just math. We're looking for the
- 22 solution that we can afford to solve our jail problem,
- 23 and so far we just can't make the math work on Mound,
- 24 and it's nothing more than that.
- 25 With respect to the bond issue, a lot of



- 1 discussions with bond counsel. If we finish Gratiot,
- 2 it's not an issue, whether or not we could use the
- 3 \$50 million left and not get into trouble on the 150
- 4 million we've already spent if we use it for some other
- 5 purpose, even renovation, is an open question. Lots of
- 6 meetings, do we ask for an IRS opinion, don't we ask for
- 7 an IRS opinion, you know, be careful what you ask for.
- 8 So far we have not. If we determine that we're going to
- 9 finish Gratiot, we probably don't need to. If we're
- 10 going to go another route, we're going to have to. Bond
- 11 counsel seems to indicate we're coming up to about the
- 12 five-year period where the IRS starts looking, and it's
- 13 better to be asking them than them coming to you. So
- 14 given that we're going to have to figure out something,
- and the thing I didn't say is that the information I
- 16 have is that that site could last three winters and
- 17 still be able to be finished. This will be the third
- 18 winter. We're going to have to make a decision, you
- 19 know, by the end of this winter what we're doing. It
- 20 also seems to coincide with the time where you don't
- 21 want to wait any longer to ask the IRS if you have a
- 22 problem.
- 23 So I think we're going to make a decision on
- 24 what we're going to do with Gratiot. We're going to
- 25 be -- either not have a problem -- if we're going to



- 1 finish Gratiot we probably don't need to ask the IRS or
- 2 we're going to do something different and we're going to
- 3 have to ask the IRS. That's about what we know on that
- 4 issue.
- With respect to the Courts, what you say about
- 6 the past is true. The present has been a very, very
- 7 good working relationship. The average population of
- 8 the jail was 21, 22 hundred for a long time, the last
- 9 few months it's been around 18 hundred, a lot to do with
- 10 moving the docket, a lot to do with our electronic
- 11 monitoring program, our tethering program, that I think
- 12 has got 500ish people on now, that before we had this
- 13 program would either have to be in the jail or on the
- 14 street. It's a really excellent way to try to reduce
- 15 that problem.
- So, yeah, you know, I know from my career the
- 17 most important factor in how many bodies you have in the
- 18 jail is how fast is your criminal justice system moving,
- 19 and if you get all parties engaged and together and
- 20 realizing, that helps. And we really have two really
- 21 good Chief Judges at this time. We have Judge Columbo,
- 22 who really cares about good government and is interested
- 23 in that, and we have Judge Kenny, who's the Chief Judge
- of the Criminal Division, who is engaged in so many
- 25 different issues with me. The latest ones that I've



- 1 dealt with Judge Kenny on and talked to the State on is,
- 2 one, people that are found incompetent to stand trial,
- 3 the moment they're found incompetent to stand trial it
- 4 is the State's duty to come take them to some mental
- 5 health facility. Well, the State takes about three or
- 6 four months to get them out of the jail. We had 12 a
- 7 couple weeks ago, probably have 12 or 13 now, but you
- 8 talk about 12 or 13 people you've got for three or four
- 9 months than you need, it's about a quarter million
- 10 dollars a year. So we had a good discussion, Zenna and
- 11 I had a good discussion with the State person, we're
- 12 trying to deal with that problem.
- We have the issue of forensics exams that
- 14 needs to be done on prisoners either on whether they're
- 15 incompetent to stand trial or criminal responsibility,
- 16 and about 50 percent of those are being done in the
- jail, but 50 percent of them the State's requiring us to
- 18 take the prisoner out to Ann Arbor. That's two Sheriffs
- 19 in a car out to Ann Arbor, they sit and wait a couple
- 20 hours, they spend a half day or a day out there watching
- 21 TV; that's expensive. So we're in discussions now, and
- 22 the State seems to be working cooperatively with us to
- 23 recognize it'll save us a lot of money to do 100 percent
- 24 of those exams in the jail and to get them done sooner.
- 25 The sooner you can get them done, the sooner the



- 1 person's ready for trial.
- 2 So this is just an example of getting the
- 3 weeds on the issues, you really need to get in the weeds
- 4 to solve problems, and that's what I'd like to say, I'm
- 5 looking for 50 bucks any way I can find it.
- 6 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, just to wrap up, I, again,
- 7 thank you for jumping into this issue. I know that it's
- 8 not a -- if it was easy, we would have fixed it a long
- 9 time ago, but I'm heartened and I think this Board is
- 10 that the Executive and the Executive Staff is putting
- 11 the top focus on this issue which is really critical to
- 12 resolving it, because lots of good people at lower
- 13 levels and us can't solve this issue. The issue has to
- 14 be resolved at the top of the ladder, and we really
- 15 appreciate you raising that up. So thank you.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Thank you.
- 17 Mr. Saros.
- MR. SAROS: Thank you. I just agree with my
- 19 colleagues. I've had the advantage of being in a number
- 20 of subcommittees that my colleagues have asked me to be
- 21 involved in through the course of this, and particularly
- 22 once it was discovered that there was a tremendous over-
- 23 budgeting.
- Eileen, I want to make sure it's clear, Eileen
- 25 referred to this earlier and it's true, this Board, I'm



- 1 really proud to be on this Board, and I'm on a lot of
- 2 Boards that I'm not thrilled about. This is really,
- 3 really a good Board. I think in 10 years I think I've
- 4 missed one meeting, and I think that that's pretty much
- 5 the same around the table. I mean we really try to do
- 6 the best job we can.
- 7 The information that flowed to this Board
- 8 through the past Administration was just not good.
- 9 We're hearing things after the fact, and I think, quite
- 10 honestly, we're kept from certain information probably
- 11 for good reason, this is a public meeting and you don't
- 12 always want everything coming out publicly until, you
- 13 know, you've got some kind of making sense of what's
- 14 going to be brought here. So we get that, too, but I
- 15 think the involvement, if we're going to be held to a
- 16 standard, and every time I read like the lawsuit that
- was passed around that keeps saying, you know, the
- 18 Authority this, the Authority this, and half the
- 19 information the Authority never even knew about so --
- 20 and half is generous.
- I would in an effort to help say a couple
- 22 things. One is that there have been many consultants on
- 23 some multiple RFI committees I sat on with some really
- 24 good people from the past Administration and RFPs.
- 25 There were tons of consultants brought in, and I think



- 1 this goes back to Mr. Vaslo's comment, who were supposed
- 2 experts in how do you fix this. And it always amazed me
- 3 that you'd get 180 degree different answers depending on
- 4 the consultant you were talking to. One of the issues
- 5 that I always hit on and asked many times own public
- 6 record is could you take -- and it's still a question of
- 7 mine, is could you take the money that you have left and
- 8 build what you can for a number of reasons, one, public
- 9 perception, by driving by that site is a daily reminder
- 10 to anybody that drives by that site and sees it sitting
- 11 there with apparently nothing being done. We know --
- 12 JUDGE KAUFMAN: The answer is 786 beds is what
- 13 you get.
- 14 MR. SAROS: And one of my questions was this.
- 15 Early on it was could we build 1,000 beds, 500 beds,
- 16 whatever that number is, 786, and design that facility
- 17 so that it could be added on in the future to what you'd
- 18 really need. Would that help with the agreement on the
- 19 existing courts or jails, rather, downtown, Divisions 1
- 20 and 2, would it send a good message to the Feds that
- 21 we're doing something to solve that problem, and then
- 22 prevent spending money to do renovations on those
- 23 facilities that just are never going to work, one's a
- 24 hundred years old, and so would it make sense.
- 25 So the answers to those questions from some



- 1 consultants was no, no, you can't do that, this is like
- 2 an erector set, you can't do it. Then six months later
- 3 a different consultant came in and said, of course you
- 4 can do that. So it's hard sometimes as to what to
- 5 believe and what not to believe from the consultants.
- And the only other thing I would say is that I
- 7 had multiple meetings with the State, with this
- 8 Administration, and particularly the Chief of Staff, I
- 9 know you're very close with him, and I felt great
- 10 cooperation from the State, not adversarial at all. I
- 11 mean it was what can we do to help, and it was prior to
- 12 the election, prior to CEO Evans taking office and prior
- 13 to Governor Snyder winning re-election, so that came
- into play, too, politically as to how do you --
- 15 especially with what was going on in Detroit. You had
- 16 to be careful politically as much as that might not want
- 17 to be admitted out in the open, it's just the truth,
- 18 that, you know, we've got to be careful what we do
- 19 politically to not send out the wrong message.
- Well, those are gone now, this is an
- 21 Administration that I think the State looks at from a
- 22 standpoint that this is a really good Administration
- 23 that is trying to do the right thing, are very
- 24 financially conscious, and I think it's almost let's see
- 25 what we can do to help. That might be a little bit of



- 1 an overreach, but I do think that it's a totally
- 2 different scenario than what was, you know, before.
- 3 So I'll just say in those meetings that I was
- 4 privy to, I found those two things to be significant.
- 5 And the third was that on the Gratiot site, the Rock
- 6 Financial group we had numerous meetings with, if you've
- 7 had enough dealings with them, this is their modus
- 8 operandi. I mean the truth of the matter is they'd
- 9 really like to do something with that site. It sits
- 10 next to their largest asset with, you know, the
- 11 Greektown Casino. And so although they like to play
- 12 chicken a little bit with that, I do think that there's
- 13 a great desire there for them to be involved in some
- 14 way, shape, or form.
- I liked at one point the Mound option very
- 16 much when we were having meetings with the State. At
- 17 this point I'm not so sure that you're exactly right,
- 18 that the best option may be completing what's already
- 19 there. I would just like to see some public activity up
- 20 there that would I think help the overview of the
- 21 County, the Administration, that we're moving forward in
- 22 some direction, if it's possible to, even if it's 786
- 23 beds or less, to be able to say we're completing this
- 24 and we're going to add later when we know the direction
- 25 that we're heading in is a good direction, it might not



- 1 be for one year, two years, or 10 years, but we're
- 2 designing this that we can add to and finish at a later
- 3 date.
- I just think it's an option -- it's not an
- 5 option, it's an idea that I'd like see looked at, and
- 6 maybe you already are, but looking at that as a
- 7 possibility. I think you'd really stop a lot of the
- 8 unfinished look that's there right now. So that's it.
- 9 I think you guys are doing a great job. It's a major
- 10 problem that should have never gotten to this point, but
- 11 as you said, no use going back other than if it's
- 12 something historical can help going forward. Going
- 13 forward is the right way to go. So I mean I'd like
- 14 to -- I wouldn't like to over consult it, because I
- 15 think if you took those -- if you took a lot of those
- opinions, when you get this final opinion out, I'll
- 17 almost be willing to bet you that that's already been
- 18 rendered at some point in the past or at least very,
- 19 very close to it. That's it for me.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Thank you, Jim.
- 21 Just a couple things from me, and certainly
- 22 the Mound was a good idea, but, quite frankly, I think
- 23 that the Governor and the legislature, they have bigger
- 24 fish to fry now with the roads and education, and they
- 25 put Wayne County's problem on the back burner; that's



- 1 just my opinion.
- 2 At the Mound center you'd also have to build a
- 3 Justice Center, which would even increase the cost of
- 4 the project more. I like the idea of protecting the
- 5 current infrastructure and maybe building what we can
- 6 afford to build.
- 7 That being said, as City Clerk, I've been
- 8 given a heads up there may be a County question on the
- 9 ballot in November. Does that County question have
- 10 anything, if you know, anything to do with taxes --
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Talking about this November?
- 12 There was discussion about putting the parks renewal
- millage on the ballot this November, but that would have
- 14 been a special election, the County would have had to
- 15 pay somewhere between 700,000 and 1.2 million. We could
- 16 now put it on probably the August ballot next year and
- 17 still be a renewal and save that money, so there's not
- 18 going to be anything on this November.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Make my life easier --
- Other than that, I think that all my questions
- 21 were answered as far as I was concerned about the IRS
- 22 implications with the remaining bond money, and as long
- 23 as those are satisfied, and it's still true, I assume,
- 24 that the bond money cannot be used for renovations.
- MS. DASKAS: That's correct. At this point,



- 1 as Judge Kaufman indicated, if we renovate the old
- 2 jails, that's an iffy area and it's not absolutely,
- 3 we're not -- it's kind of a gray area with the IRS. And
- 4 as he stated, completing the Gratiot site, that's the
- 5 best way as far as the IRS goes looking at it to go, but
- 6 we do have the other option to actually look at, see
- 7 what happens, but it's a gray area.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Did you have anything
- 9 else you wanted to add?
- 10 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Just wanted to make a brief
- 11 comment on Jim's point. When Warren asked me to chair
- 12 the Jail Committee during in the transition period, one
- of my thoughts was we got \$50 million, we can finish
- 14 this facility and stop it from being an eye sore and
- 15 utilize it, this would be a great, great solution. I'm
- 16 not saying it's the end all of the information, but all
- 17 the information we could get was we could finish it,
- 18 have a jail of about 786 beds, and all the PR would be
- 19 great in that there's still the substance, and it seems
- 20 to me we don't solve our problems if we can't finish
- 21 Gratiot in a way to close down Divisions 1 and 2.
- 22 Somebody tell me I'm wrong, I'm looking for information,
- 23 but if we can't close Divisions 1 or 2, we don't get the
- 24 operational savings, and we don't have the solution to
- our problem, and, to me, it's just as simple as that,



- 1 and if this simplicity is wrong, somebody point it out
- 2 to me.
- 3 MR. SAROS: My question would be how many --
- 4 could you close down 1 or 2 as opposed to --
- 5 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Well, right now, one of my top
- 6 agenda items for the July 21st meeting with DLZ is to
- 7 figure out if we could make renovations to 1 quick
- 8 enough to close down 2 in a very short period of time,
- 9 as not a final solution but a good temporary solution to
- 10 save money while we're trying to find money maybe to
- 11 finance Gratiot. But, to me, the long run solution is
- 12 either you're going to save all the capital costs that
- it will cost to finish Gratiot and somehow keep
- 14 operating your existing jails or you're going to figure
- 15 out how to get the operational savings from finishing
- 16 Gratiot, and you're only going to get those by closing
- 17 Divisions 1 and 2. To me, that's the catch 22, so to
- 18 speak, of which way to go here. And something that does
- 19 parts of both doesn't give you a solution, it seems to
- 20 me.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Judge, if you renovate
- 22 Division 1 and incorporate Division 2 into Division 1,
- 23 would that entail double bunking and with the Feds, how
- long would the Feds allow that?
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Those are -- you've got some



- of the complicated issues, it would have to do with
- 2 expanding Dickerson, also, that we closed some units out
- 3 there, expanding Dickerson, figuring out the double
- 4 bunking, how many single cells we will continue to need,
- 5 and there's a mental health issue, too. There's about a
- 6 list of 10 problems to solve in order to do that. The
- 7 bigger picture, it would be great to close down 2, which
- 8 is this old facility that's going to cost -- you know,
- 9 where it's gum and glue right now to keep that going, to
- 10 have that headache gone and not have to spend the money
- 11 to keep it operating would be a wonderful thing, but
- 12 there's a lot of small, medium, and big issues to do
- 13 that, but that is a serious discussion going on right
- 14 now.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Plus that parcel could be
- 16 then put on the market and then that money be invested.
- 17 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Exactly.
- 18 MR. SAROS: Do you have a ballpark figure of
- 19 what the renovation costs would be on 1 and 2 or on --
- 20 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: On 1.
- 21 MR. SAROS: On 1?
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: I would just be guessing, but
- 23 I'm thinking 30, 50 million.
- MR. SAROS: So that was the number that was
- 25 thrown around -- I've lost track of the meetings, but at



- 1 one point that was the same kind of number, and I mean
- 2 does it make sense to take that same, wherever it was
- 3 going to come from, if you can't use the -- let's say 50
- 4 million bond money, is that 30 to 40 million better
- 5 spent added to the 50, again, going back to Gratiot.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: That's a very good question
- 7 except I don't know where I'm getting the 30, 40 million
- 8 from.
- 9 MR. SAROS: But you're going to get it one way
- 10 or another, right?
- 11 JUDGE KAUFMAN: I assume so.
- MR. SAROS: I mean if tomorrow -- I mean I get
- 13 that, but I mean if tomorrow -- yeah, we have, let's
- 14 just say 30 to 40 million to do that renovation, would
- 15 it be better to take that 30 or 40 million, add it to
- 16 the bond money which is just dwindling every month
- 17 because we're paying the cost of it, and build something
- 18 that actually would have great value going forward
- 19 because you could -- you know, if you were -- if it was
- 20 designed to be added on to.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Yes, except for these issues.
- 22 The 30, 40 million into Gratiot is going to take me
- 23 three years at least to get a jail up and operating that
- I can use those cells. I need the cells now.
- 25 Meanwhile, I got a Court saying you've got



- 1 constitutional conditions you've got to keep in the
- 2 jail, so what am I going to do for those few years when
- 3 he says that we've got maggots in the kitchen, so in the
- 4 long-term I understand it, but in the short-term we've
- 5 got to keep operating.
- 6 MR. SAROS: But didn't the Court say prior
- 7 that, well, since you're building this new facility,
- 8 this was before all the problems, will -- I'm just going
- 9 to say cut you some slack on renovating something you're
- 10 obviously going to tear down.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: The Court cut us great slack
- 12 when they thought we were going to be finishing Gratiot
- and were willing to go for the year or two not doing the
- 14 repairs. Now where we got no plan, Judge Kenny's just
- 15 not quite as sympathetic.
- MR. SAROS: But if you had a plan, is there
- 17 any shot at that -- I mean if you had a plan to do that,
- 18 is there any shot at --
- 19 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Yes, and that's why Judge
- 20 Kenny is significantly involved and one of the people
- 21 pushing to try to see if we could come up with an
- 22 interim plan to close 2, renovate 1 fast enough so that
- 23 we can do that. So many different issues and mixes and
- 24 matches and short-range problems, long-range problems,
- and everything you're saying is reasonable and worthy of



- 1 continuing discussion to see what's the best way to make
- 2 it work.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Mr. Hoffman?
- 4 MR. HOFFMAN: And just let me shift from the
- 5 head in the clouds to feet on the ground, can you talk a
- 6 little bit about how the Administration is handling the
- 7 day-to-day operation of the Building Authority process
- 8 and the site and security and paying the bills that
- 9 aren't currently -- or that are still hanging out there,
- 10 obviously we have the legal situations and we have -- we
- 11 trust, you know, Mary Anna's got kind of the books, so
- 12 to speak, but can you talk about the structure,
- 13 reporting structure, and address the concern that I have
- 14 that nothing's falling through the cracks.
- 15 JUDGE KAUFMAN: I sure hope nothing's falling
- 16 through the cracks. Let me start with a specific
- 17 example. In the last few weeks we spent a lot of time
- 18 with all sorts of stuff we're storing in various places
- 19 and deciding do we want to sell this, do we want to keep
- 20 it, and so we've sold a bunch of stuff, but none of it
- 21 is stuff that we think we might be usable to finish
- 22 Gratiot, so we continue to pay, I don't know, \$14,000 a
- 23 month somewhere, I think that's for the precast cells.
- 24 So I think Zenna, having been around longer, would
- 25 probably know more about the overall picture, but you've



- 1 got issues, you know, we're leasing space for that
- 2 equipment, we've got costs to keep the site secure and
- 3 we're paying those costs, and these are costs we'd like
- 4 to avoid, but they're necessary if we're going to keep
- 5 it as an option to finish it. And, Zenna --
- MS. ELHASAN: Yeah, there's actually a spread
- 7 sheet of costs that Mary Anna is very familiar with and
- 8 I look at occasionally, but I think she looks at more
- 9 often.
- 10 MS. DASKAS: Since I handle all these
- 11 contracts for security, for the pump maintenance and the
- 12 8 pumps in the lower area, the warehouse lease that
- we're leasing equipment -- or, I'm sorry, that we're
- 14 leasing space to store equipment for the jail site on
- 15 Lafayette, we've got equipment that's also being stored
- 16 at the HQ building and equipment that's also being
- 17 stored out at Mound. We spend about approximately 10,
- 18 \$11,000 a month on security, 24/7 security, we spend
- 19 \$15,000 a month on the precast cells that are being
- 20 stored out in River Rouge, we've got trailer
- 21 maintenance, \$140 for the trailer and the porta potty
- 22 for the quards. Totally it's about \$700,000 a year in
- 23 costs to just maintain the equipment and the site.
- MR. VASLO: A year?
- MS. DASKAS: A year. That is not been being



- 1 paid out of the bonds because it's operational, so it
- 2 comes out of --
- 3 MR. VASLO: General Fund.
- 4 MS. DASKAS: -- General Fund, which has been
- 5 budgeted for the next few years. So all those costs are
- 6 covered. I administer all those contracts, negotiate
- 7 them with Judge Kaufman.
- 8 MR. HOFFMAN: If I'm not impertinent, but who
- 9 are you reporting to now and do you have some straight
- 10 line or --
- MS. DASKAS: People I report to, Tony
- 12 Saunders, Judge Kaufman for the Jail Project, and it
- 13 still goes through the Commission --
- MR. HOFFMAN: Is in your portfolio, not just
- 15 this piece but also --
- 16 JUDGE KAUFMAN: If I could give --
- MR. HOFFMAN: That's what I wanted to get to.
- 18 JUDGE KAUFMAN: If I could give a little
- 19 vignette to the story, about two months ago now the
- 20 State trying to get us interested in Mound again, Tony
- 21 Saunders, Jay Rising, and myself went for a tour of
- 22 Mound, and the State has taken us through Mound, and
- 23 pretty interesting, and we get to this one place, and
- 24 it's like an inside football field size stuff just
- 25 filled with all sorts of building equipment, and I look



- 1 at the State guy, I said, "What do you have all this
- 2 stuff here for?" He said, "It's not our stuff, it's
- 3 your stuff."
- 4 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Well, the State's very
- 5 interested in pushing Mound because it's their white
- 6 elephant.
- 7 Anything else?
- 8 Okay. I would like to say thank you so much
- 9 for being here, and we welcome you at any meeting.
- 10 There have been several months, as you can see since we
- 11 just approved the March meeting, that we have not had a
- 12 meeting, and that was, quite honestly, my call. I'm a
- 13 firm believer that if you don't have an agenda item, why
- 14 should you have a meeting. That being said, we would
- 15 like you at every meeting to give us an update because
- 16 we thirst for knowledge.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Yes, and I think that there
- 18 will be reasons for more meetings in the future, and I
- 19 take seriously the offer of expertise for you -- this
- 20 group individually and together to help us figure out
- 21 the right path solving the problem.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: And you will check that
- 23 in all of our meetings we have been so transparent, that
- 24 was one of my main goals when I first came on this, it
- 25 was, if I may say, pre Kwame days, and I'm not



- 1 prophetic, I can't read the future, but that's just how
- 2 I am, and we continue to be very transparent, everything
- 3 has been above board, everything's been on the minutes,
- 4 and we just really need information.
- 5 MR. HOFFMAN: And building on that point,
- 6 could you maybe walk us through a little bit of what you
- 7 see happening over the next, you mentioned six to nine
- 8 months, what are the key milestones that you see, and
- 9 how do you see us playing in those milestones.
- 10 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Darn good question. Let me
- 11 answer it this way. And this relates to the comments
- 12 about experts and experts and 180 degree -- I've had so
- 13 many meetings with different people that last hours to
- 14 start with the simple question please tell me the best
- 15 way to finish this project. My head is swimming. I
- don't know the answer, but my gut at the moment is to
- just put an RFP out that says here's what we got, come
- 18 look at our prints, come look at it, building company,
- 19 somebody, tell me what it'll cost to finish it. And
- 20 that's one of 10 different permutations you will get
- 21 from experts, oh, no, first you got to put out an RFP
- 22 and get design people to come here and redo the design,
- 23 and should we do it with AECOM and all the things that
- 24 go into the sourness of the relationship now because of
- 25 the lawsuit, but they're in the best position to finish



- 1 it because they started it. I don't know the answer, to
- 2 tell you frankly, but from all the discussions I've had,
- 3 and there's been many, right now the direction we're
- 4 going is to try to get enough information to just put an
- 5 RFP out there that says here's what we got. And the
- 6 reason I think it might work is we've had calls from
- 7 nationally, internationally recognized building
- 8 companies, one who specializes in this, saying, you
- 9 know, send me in, coach. And, you know, we got
- 10 procurement rules, so it's difficult to have certain
- 11 kind of informal discussions, but right now, and I'm
- 12 looking at you got different input, my gut is to just
- 13 try to get someone to help us, we probably need a
- 14 consultant just for this purpose, help us put an RFP
- 15 together that says here what we got, and what we got
- 16 is -- blueprints, we have this, and, frankly, on these
- 17 big companies dying, have them do the work to say here's
- 18 what we can build it for. That's my gut at the moment.
- 19 MR. SAROS: You know, Judge, with -- and I
- 20 know this runs -- let me preface this -- not only runs
- 21 contradictory to what we maybe should do but runs
- 22 contradictory to how I feel about everything in life,
- 23 but given where we're at, when we -- many, many, many
- 24 years ago when AECOM was brought before this body by the
- 25 past Administration, what was said was they were



- 1 basically the preeminent expert in correctional
- 2 facilities in the country, I mean that was how that was
- 3 presented, that was on the minutes. It was all being
- 4 vetted by the -- they were being vetted as well as
- 5 everyone else by the previous Administration. What had
- 6 come to this Board, and I know you understand this, but
- 7 I think the general public at least in the beginning
- 8 didn't, what had come to this Board is not here's 20
- 9 different companies, you guys go through the vetting and
- 10 come up with who you think was best, that was done for
- 11 us by the Administration, it would come with a
- 12 suggestion and we went through these 20 companies, and
- 13 this is who we think is the best and why. There would
- 14 have been no reason for us to not believe that and
- 15 follow it. In fact, it would have almost been ludicrous
- 16 to not follow it because you weren't in on the
- information in the beginning. But does it make any
- 18 sense since there is litigation going on with AECOM that
- 19 may or may not result in some kind of a financial
- 20 reward, does it make sense, and does it make sense for
- 21 them, since they do have this expertise, to entertain
- 22 sitting down with them and saying, you know, what could
- 23 you do to finish this and how many millions of dollars
- in a break could you give us in exchange for, you know,
- 25 I'm just going to say, you know, dropping our claims. I



- 1 mean is that being entertained at all? Is that -- like
- 2 I said, it's contradictory to how I --
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Not only entertained, it's
- 4 already occurred.
- 5 MR. SAROS: All right.
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: But they were -- it was part
- 7 of settlement discussions in an ongoing lawsuit, and
- 8 without getting into the details of it, an overarching
- 9 problem is let's assume they have a resolution that
- 10 sounded reasonable, if the County wasn't in a place to
- 11 fund it, we can't do anything with it.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: It all boils down to
- 13 money, doesn't it?
- JUDGE KAUFMAN: Just math.
- MR. VASLO: It's just math, he said.
- MS. ELHASAN: I just want to add something in
- 17 the interest of full disclosure and transparency, I know
- 18 we came before this body a few months ago and indicated
- 19 that Robert Newton was no longer going to be a full-time
- 20 employee with the County for purposes of, you know,
- 21 trying to be efficient and saving money. We recognized
- 22 a couple months after that that there was still some
- 23 information that we can tap out of Robert Newton, and I
- 24 certainly didn't want to be reaching out to him on a
- 25 consistent basis and not have something to give for



- 1 that. So we have him on a, very much on an as-needed
- 2 basis, he's taken a reduced hourly rate, and the RFP
- 3 that Judge Kaufman referred to, he is helping me to try
- 4 to put together something for purposes of --
- 5 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Be very good if --
- 6 MS. ELHASAN: Yeah, so he's working with us on
- 7 a limited capacity, and obviously as we need him, we pay
- 8 for those services.
- 9 MR. HOFFMAN: When do you think that you might
- 10 have something that gives us at least a direction as to
- 11 how we'll be proceeding?
- 12 JUDGE KAUFMAN: Wish it was yesterday. I
- don't know two, three weeks, a month maybe getting an
- 14 RFP.
- 15 MS. ELHASAN: I'd say at least a month.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: If I could make a
- 17 suggestion, Audricka, if you wouldn't mind, before the
- 18 next agenda deadline, if you could contact Judge Kaufman
- 19 and Mr. Parker and see if they have anything they would
- 20 like to tell us, if we don't have any other business,
- 21 because, like I said, we thirst for knowledge, and the
- 22 more we know, the better we are to answer our
- 23 constituents who say, hey, what about the Jail Project?
- MS. ELHASAN: And we've already indicated that
- 25 we'll be seeking a Closed Session at your next Building



- 1 Authority meeting just to discuss the litigation in a
- 2 little bit more depth, the Oldcastle piece and the AECOM
- 3 piece.
- 4 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair, who issues
- 5 the RFP, is it the County or the Building Authority?
- 6 MS. ELHASAN: I think the original ones were
- 7 issued through the Building Authority, were they not?
- 8 Did this body -- I believe -- I wasn't here but I
- 9 believe --
- 10 MS. DASKAS: I wasn't involved at that time,
- 11 either.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: I believe they were.
- MS. ELHASAN: Because the bonds are --
- 14 MR. VASLO: Right, and all that came through
- 15 us for approval, so I'm assuming that we were -- they
- 16 wouldn't ask if they didn't need it so --
- MS. ELHASAN: If they want bond proceeds --
- 18 have to go through --
- 19 MR. VASLO: Do we fall under the same
- 20 procurement rules, those bastions of clarity in the
- 21 County, the procurement rules, do we follow --
- 22 CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Yes.
- MR. VASLO: We follow those, also?
- MS. ELHASAN: Yes.
- MR. VASLO: That's a shame.



1	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: That's why we're members
2	and not the people who have to worry about it.
3	Anything else, gentlemen?
4	(No response.)
5	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Hearing nothing else, any
6	Public Comment?
7	(No response.)
8	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: If not, there is a motion
9	to adjourn.
L 0	MR. HOFFMAN: So move.
L1	MR. VASLO: Support.
L2	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: All those in favor?
L3	(In unison): Aye.
L 4	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Opposed?
L 5	(No response.)
L 6	CHAIRPERSON DeHART: Motion carries.
L7	(The meeting was concluded at 11:08 a.m.)
L8	
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1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY
2	
3	STATE OF MICHIGAN)
4) SS
5	COUNTY OF OAKLAND)
6	I, Laurel A. Frogner, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
7	a Notary Public in and for the above county and state,
8	do hereby certify that the above meeting was taken
9	before me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth;
LO	that the foregoing was recorded by me stenographically
L1	and reduced to computer transcription; that this is a
L2	true, full and correct transcript of my stenographic
L3	notes so taken; and that I am not related to, nor of
L 4	counsel to any party nor interested in the event of this
L 5	cause.
L 6	alle
L 7	Lucy France
L 8	Jairel Fragner
L 9	Laurel A. Frogner, CSR-2495, RMR, CRR
20	Notary Public,
21	Oakland County, Michigan
22	My Commission expires: 4-22-2021
23	
24	



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