**JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WORKSHOP**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ricky Crosby, Commissioners James Benjamin, Brad Crews, and Vann Wooten, Attorney Carla Powell and Deputy Clerk Chelsea Mabey.

Sheriff Preston Bohannon was present to discuss a new jail. He said we have been looking over some things to see what we can do to get this project moving forward. Sheriff Bohannon said we bought this property 2-3 years ago and the issue was not being able to fund to build the jail it has been over being able to staff and operate it. He stated what they are here today for was to request the Commissioners to vote to hire the architect firm, Studio 8 out of Valdosta, sign a contract with them hire them and move forward. If it needs to build in phases then we need to move forward like this. Phase 2 would be building admin buildings first, 911, Sheriff’s office, then jail. He stated “you cannot build a jail without admin to support and run it.” We are mainly here to answer questions, if any. Commissioner Brad Crews brought up the courtroom issue. Sheriff Bohannon stated we will need the courtroom on the premises, it will not take away from the Courthouse. But, we will not need the court room until the inmates are there. Commissioner Crosby asked how much money would be needed to complete phase 2. Sheriff Bohannon stated it would cost around 4.5 million dollars, but if you add the courtroom to it, you will be adding about a half of a million dollars. Commissioner Crews asked Studio 8 if we decide to contract with your company and we say we need to stay in a desired number is that possible. Studio 8 representative stated we don’t effect the cost of construction but we know the cost of construction and we will work with you on making sure we get the best price. Commissioner Crews stated let’s talk your cost. Studio 8 stated generally we like to get 6% across the board, maybe a little more for travel and special services, but very close to 6%, that covers all services. It will be paid in increments, as the work is completed then we will pay. Commissioner Crews asked the Sheriff if the figures given included Studio 8 and the sheriff stated yes it did. Commissioner Crews then asked if we get in a contract with you and you draw the plans get us figures etc. and then say we cannot pay for it, what do we owe you at that point? Studio stated you pay us for what we have completed. Commissioner Crews stated we need to move forward, we should be able to start with two million and then we would only need to get a two million dollar loan. Commissioners ask what the citizens opinion in building a new jail? Sheriff Bohannon stated they have been very transparent with the tax payers and they have told them everything, some of the citizens stated they would hate to know their loved ones were housed in the old jail. Sheriff also stated there will be no wasted space on the property. Commissioner Crews stated he spoke with Commissioner Hobbs and he is in favor of moving forward, he knows he cannot vote, but he is in favor. Attorney Powell has the contract if there are any questions.

**Motion:** To hire Studio 8 as the architect to start the process of the Jeff Davis County Jail

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**Adjourn 3:34 p.m.**

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Heather Scott, Clerk Ricky Crosby, Chairman