

Greene County has significant infrastructure and operational deficiencies in its current jail and has been directed by the State Commission of Correction to address these deficiencies. There are currently two options under consideration by the Greene County Legislature in order to do so.

The first option is to construct a 98 bed facility in Coxsackie at an estimated cost of \$51,418,000 PLUS an estimated \$28,000,000 in interest. The total cost of the proposed facility – estimated at almost \$80,000,000 would be more than three times the largest capital expense in the county's history and would quadruple Greene County's debt.

The second option is to enter into a long-term agreement with Columbia County to operate a shared jail. Some capital construction will be necessary at the shared facility to accommodate both county populations and the preliminary estimate for such construction is \$15 million (to be shared by both counties).

Why a Shared Jail?

- In addition to the estimated \$44 million that taxpayers would be saved in capital construction costs, sharing a jail with Columbia County would yield tremendous savings for Greene County taxpayers through permanent reduction in annual operating expenses.
 - The concept for ongoing operational costs is to enter into a long term contract through which Greene County would pay a percentage of the annual shared facility operating costs based upon the actual number of bed/days utilized each year.
 - Based on this agreement, the bi-county shared jail working group has estimated that Greene County's annual corrections operating budget would decrease from XXX to XXX annually.
 - Given the capital construction savings together with the ongoing operating budget savings, estimates suggest a total savings of XXX annually for 30 years for Greene County.

Resources:

County Corrections Budget

Controller's numbers

Daily Mail Article with Controllers' numbers

- As a shared service initiative, in addition to massive capital and operational savings, the project would also be eligible for financial incentives from New York State under the Municipal Restructuring Fund (MRF) <http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-15-mrf-27/index.html>.
 - The MRF was enacted to stimulate permanent property tax reductions resulting from shared services and consolidations between local governments and **projects are eligible for 20% of the ten-year cost-savings.**
- The need for a large jail in Greene County going into the future is not supported by the numbers.

- As of XXX, the current population of the Greene County Jail is XXX and population factors used for prediction are flat or declining and suggest a decreasing inmate population.
- On only 3 days in the past 10 years has the daily population exceeded 100.
- Additionally, jail and prison populations are decreasing across NYS and the country with pending legislative changes that will reduce these populations further.

Resources:

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Report-of-the-ATI-Committee.FINALwithnotes-10-5-17.pdf>

MIKE'S DATA

SCOC – “overcrowding numbers”

Articles regarding decarceration

VERA

Addressing Concerns about a Shared Jail

Is it permissible for two counties to share a jail in NYS?

- It is neither expressly permitted nor expressly prohibited by NYS law for two counties to share a jail. **County Law section 217 and Corrections Law section 500** speak most directly to this subject and the generally understood perspective held by those in a position to authorize a shared jail in the Governor's Office for Public Safety and Commission of Correction is that minor modification of these sections of law would need to happen before a shared jail could be finalized.
 - Corrections Law 500 contains XXX special exceptions for different counties and the proposed modifications would take the form of such a special exception specifically authorizing a shared jail for Greene and Columbia counties.
 - Commonly held belief by State and other criminal justice officials is that these modifications could happen quickly during the current legislative session. In fact, there is currently a bill in the Senate that would go above and beyond the authorization that would be necessary for the Greene-Columbia project.

Resources:

County Law 217

Corrections Law 500

Senate Bill

SUNY New Paltz report

What will happen with Corrections Officer jobs?

- There are currently only 31 corrections officers employed at the Greene County Jail with 6 authorized positions vacant. Greene County has historically had a difficult time with recruitment and had open positions for many years. (???? MS says salary too low....)
- In the event of a shared jail, corrections officers could be absorbed by the new facility, transferred to other positions within the Greene County Sheriff's office or in other county departments or offered severance and/or early retirement packages from resultant savings.

- They got our college – here’s where I think we ask what would you want to see happen in this county with 80m dollars

Wouldn’t there be an economic benefit from construction?

- While a substantial construction project can result in temporary construction jobs and material purchasing, as a municipal project, construction of a jail in Coxsackie would be regulated by a bid process that would limit any potential economic impact.
 - Specifically, in a municipal bid process, the contract must be awarded to the low bid, absent a serious challenge to the qualifications, **REGARDLESS OF THE LOCATION OF THE COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL**. That is, local preference can not trump the low bid.
 - Given the size of this proposed project, it will likely attract the attention of major construction outfits and material vendors from well beyond our area and it is highly likely that out-of-county bidders will prevail.

Resources: Current architect etc. all from out of the area

Couldn’t we build an oversized jail in Greene County and charge other jurisdictions to house overflow inmates?

- The idea that Greene County could generate revenue by charging other jurisdictions to “board-in” their inmates is simply unrealistic. Many county jails, including the Columbia County jail, are operating significantly under capacity and all indicators suggest that incarcerated populations will continue to further decline.
- BAIL REFORM

***Resources: SCOC boarding in reports
Get report of census vs. capacity***

Could Greene County lose sales tax dollars to Columbia County from staff and visitor expenditures?

- While there may be ancillary expenditures by staff (31 +/-) and visitors of the inmate population (which is currently fluctuating between 40-50), any lost sales tax dollars will be microscopic in comparison to the tax impact of an \$80 million (including interest) jail construction project.

Resources: Lost sales tax dollars (estimate of amount spent per day by person on the job)

4. SHERIFF’S OFFICE EMPLOYEE LOSS: Sheriffs and other jail employees will lose their jobs.

Presently, the Sheriff's Office operates several divisions. These include the jail, road patrol, marine patrol on the Hudson, the Civil Office serving the courts, Court House/County Building security, security at the Mental Health Center in Cairo, tracking sex offenders in the community, and criminal investigations. Would it surprise you to discover that there are only 3 full-time officers in CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION?

The Correctional Officer segment, located at the county jail in Catskill, numbers just 31 – a number that has remained low over time because the current jail was found lacking and we began to house our detainees at Columbia County's jail. I would think that a prudent and effective shared-services plan would be to re-assign some of our trained Correctional Officers to the Hudson site to oversee our detainees located there. Others officers would join the Road Patrol division to keep our roads safe, and others would be transferred to the Criminal Investigations unit to better chase perpetrators and solve crime. In fact, all of this might be funded without a tax consequence due to the money saved through the shared facility and the state grant dollars that would be generated by the project.

MISCELLANEOUS

Attached is Payroll report, listing 31 CO's out of 37 authorized. Civil Service test was recently given that included 30 applicants. Test results in 4 - 6 weeks. Authorized positions do not include Jail Super't or Lt. I have no way of knowing who may retire or when. Transports on an annual basis I believe consume approx. 5,700 - 6,500 hours. Two CO's per vehicle with Court schedule as follows: 4 different courts on Monday, 6 on Tuesday, 5 on Wed, 4 on Thurs, 1 on Friday.

Additional data to follow.

- Various meetings and correspondence with executive leadership in the Governor's Office for Public Safety, the State Commission of Correction and the Department of State have indicated clear support for the active consideration of a shared facility.

a) Rehab of Court House, FY 2010-11 was approx. \$12-\$13 mil. B) The COB in FY 2003-04 was approx. \$16 mil.

Herkimer County