

***MINUTES***  
***VANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS***  
***WORK SESSION***  
***April 15, 2024***

The Vance County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those commissioners present were as follows: Chair R. Dan Brummitt, Vice-Chair Leo Kelly, Jr., Commissioners Sean A. Alston, Sr., Yolanda J. Feimster and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: Commissioners Carolyn Faines and Thomas S. Hester, Jr.

Also present were County Manager C. Renee Perry, Finance Director Stephanie Williams, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

The Board discussed the need to renovate the existing jail or to construct a new jail and reviewed the feasibility study that was conducted in 2023. Probable costs are \$5.3M to renovate the existing jail, \$31.3M to renovate the existing jail with an addition, and \$42.6M to construct a new 250-bed facility. Payments for a new jail would be \$3.2M annually, which equates to a 13¢ tax increase. Payments to renovate the existing jail with an addition would be \$2.4M annually, which equates to an 8¢ tax increase.

Sheriff Curtis Brame and Major Jessica Alston appeared before the board and provided information on current conditions at the facility. Sheriff Brame stated that, in his opinion, it would be a waste of taxpayer dollars to renovate the existing facility because of the amount of repairs and renovations that are needed.

The board discussed regionalization, the need to shorten inmate length of stay before trial, and whether or not state or federal funding would be available for this type of project. Commissioner Sean A. Alston, Sr. stated that he would reach out to his contacts in Washington to see if any funds are available.

The board agreed that a new facility is needed, but also, the current facility needs to be maintained. In the interim, the Sheriff was instructed to contact H.G. Reynolds to discuss a maintenance contract for ongoing maintenance and repairs for the jail. If they are not able to do this, he was instructed to contact another qualified contractor.

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