

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

SPECIAL SESSION II

June 23, 1982

The fourth joint meeting of the Special Session II was held on the above date in Room 104 at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Chairman Moore announced that the Joint Committee would hear H.B. 14 and 16 tonight at 7:00 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 12: Rep. Keyser, sponsor of House Bill 12 explained the bill as construction for security improvement. It makes the fence so that the guard tower will cover the entire fence. There is only a single wire fence on the walkway where the visitors come in and out and Rep. Keyser showed on the map included in the briefing paper where that area and other areas having only single fence were.

Glen Drake, representing the prison guards through the MPEA said this bill is largely duplicated by H.B. 7. Here we are concerned with fencing up the yard by squaring it up and placement of the tower. The additional in this bill is the location of the guard tower on top of the administration building to see the fence area in the event House Bill 7 does not pass.

Sargeant Warren Wagner, MSP, said in the picture the administration building is #12 in the picture on the briefing page and the areaway they are talking about goes to #13. He said at the present time the maximum security people go through this area under escort. It has poor lighting, poor visibility, and A,B and C goes by themselves through this area in the daylight hours. He said with better lighting and a tower on top of the administration building the area could be observed at all times.

Phil Hauck, State architect, Dept. of Adm. said he would have a comment on the bill. The numbers do not jibe. Some discussion was held on this, and it was decided if you use H.B. 7 and the deletions and additions, it comes out right.

Bill Thomas, Maintenance Service, said he hoped the committee would recommend passage of this bill and there should be more research done for new lighting. He said the present lighting was for a

Finance and Claims Committee
Special Session II
June 23, 1982
Page 2

circular fence and would not be strong enough for proper vision when the fence was straightened out.

Chairman Moore called for questions from the committee.

Senator Himsl: How long have you been at the prison, Sergeant Warner?
Warner: 3 years.

Himsl: If my memory does not fail me when the prison was built they said they would not need the tower and the circular design was the best way to provide security. It was electrically controlled fence area and would indicate 50# pressure on the fence. It would show up on the fence and they would know right now where it was. They took us around and demonstrated. Why is the alarm system changing and what happened?

Warner: This was brought up yesterday in H.B. 2. In regard to the additional electrical designs, I am not that familiar with the fencing design.

Himsl: The system failing, or has it failed?

Warner: The present system has some malfunctions. In certain areas it has probably failed. I have not been involved in the investigations.

Himsl: Will the present circular fence be moved to make room for the other one?

Warner: My personal feeling is it could be installed and the other fence then be removed.

Himsl: You would then have both?

Warner: No, the circular fence would be gone.

Himsl: Do the costs consider utilizing the old fence?

Hauck? We don't know where these figures came from but in the old one we would have saved the old fence.

Quilici: Yesterday in the hearing they said sometimes the wind would blow weeds against the fence and set off the alarm or the prisoners kept setting them off until the guards did not pay attention and the improvement would let them go to another room to monitor so they could see if some one was trying to escape. If you change

the fence from a round fence then you did not take into consideration the amount of fence it would take to put in new fence.

Glen Drake explained they used a ruler on the plan and came up with an approximation. He said the figures came from House Bill 7.

Hauck: If these figures are the ones in H.B. 7, they are ours.

Bardanouve: How does this bill relate to the proposed new facility? Will there be any relationship if a new facility is built? Any impact?

Drake: The reason for this bill is because of the feeling around the capitol that the prospects for the new one would not be cited at this time. Was the reference for the squaring off of the fence that was related to Mr. South's-- if there were construction that would take place inside the compound. It is suggested that if the new fence was built, all the construction would take place between the new fence and the control fence. You would have the ability to build the new prison within that area inside the new fence and outside the old one. Mr. Hauck said it was included.

Sen. Boylan: If you take the old fence and incorporate it in the new one you are without protection at that time.

Drake: It is identical with the governor's bill that calls for expansion of the new prison.

Bardanouve: In the event of the new guard tower, if a new one is built, will the same number of guard towers be required.

Drake: With the exception of the one on the administration building. The need for this is a present very pressing need. If the new one is built and divided as shown in the governor's plan, then the need for the one on the administration building is not as pressing as it is now.

Bardanouve: I don't want to go ahead and build something that will become obsolete if we go ahead a few months down the line and do something else.

Aklestad: How many escapes have been during daylight hours that have been visual at the prison?

Sargeant Warner: There were two escapes where weapons were used. We had an escape right underneath around the administration building that was after dark.

Aklestad: That is where we are building the new fence?

Warner: The area that will be squared off.

Aklestad: What type of prisoner escaped?

Warner: I don't remember for sure.

Aklestad: Two out of 30 some escapes were seen?

Warner: In that area?

Aklestad: In any area.

Stimatz: Do you know where the 6 went over the fence?

Warner: As near as I can remember, that was over behind Close I.

Thomas (Maintenance) On Sargeant Warner's area, those two were not counted as escapees so they were not the escape list since they were apprehended in the parking lot and had never left the grounds.

Warner: That was before the new guard tower was completed.

Stimatz: Do you have to go up on the roof to shoot?

Thomas: Yes

Haffey: Phil Hauck said each guard tower would cost \$190,000 to build. H.B. 7 the dollar figure is \$256,000. This bill is \$258,000. Does this mean two guard towers and \$190,000.

Hauck: I don't know who wrote this bill. At the bottom there is an amount of money. Now it is a separate item. It is 30% and if you add that back in, you come back to the figure I said.

Haffey: To finance the squaring off of the fence and putting a fence down the middle. Have you kind of trimmed that out and the \$390,000 would be what was needed but not to pull the other down?

Drake: I took the total and straightened the fence out with a ruler. \$390,000 would be about what we would take out to come up with that figure.

Haffey: Phil, did you take out part of the fence and if so how did you figure to use it and keep security?

Hauck: Build one-half and take that fence out and then go to the other half. Yes, it was figured in H.B. 7 in the figures out of my office.

Keating: The area is next to the walkway area. You want this tower to observe the walkway. There is a guard station at the corner that monitors traffic to the infirmary. It has visual contact with the whole area there.

Wagner: The control office is to watch his officer escort through. He opens doors, etc. The only way he pays any attention to the walkway is when a buzzer rings. He cannot be observing both.

Keating: The electrical field is 300 degrees - - around 180 degree coverage and across so there should be some where in there where it can be checked if someone touches the fence and a buzzer rings. If it is an alarm system what is to prevent a prisoner kicking the fence and setting it off to throw them off guard? We were told you could visually see from the towers.

Wagner: I cannot visually see the first area if you come in at the gate.

Smith: You are talking about a fence 10' inside the circular fence and then the warning system. If you go ahead of that you will have to make modifications in the other plan. I have no continuity since I got down there.

Regan: I have one concern. The figures we acted on should be defensible. I wonder if before you take executive action, if you would ask that the OBPP and LFA could get together and look at this.

Smith: On the new tower - Phil, just under \$200,000. There was \$260,000. The figures may vary a little. The second tower is higher and has no electronics.

Smith: The monitoring staff - I could see the guard spending about 1/2 of his time running between the two monitoring systems. I know he cannot observe when he is running back and forth.

Wagner: That is what happens. One person can manage most of the time.

Smith: We are trying to upgrade the system.

Wagner: I've worked that area quite a bit. Sometimes you need a pair of roller skates.

Smith: When he was talking about new lighting the people did not even know anything about it.

Finance and Claims Committee
Special Session II
June 23, 1982
Page 6

Keating: They are spotted on the control sheet.

Smith: Are we doing any duplication? If you put a new tower on the administration building, then what?

Wagner: The new tower can control the south end and oversee the industrial area.

Chairman Moore declared the hearing closed and said we would now hear testimony for House Bill 8.

The sponsor did not appear on this bill and could not be located. Chairman Moore asked the committee if it would be satisfactory to close the Joint hearing and if the sponsor showed up they would hear it in Appropriations Committee which would immediately follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Senator Himsl, Co-chairman