

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

**RESOLUTION TO RESCIND PREVIOUS RESOLUTION; SET PLANNING SESSION  
DISCUSSION ITEM; SET SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER NEW JAIL SITE**

**WHEREAS**, Allegan County is in critical need of new jail and sheriff administration facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners has worked tirelessly on the jail and sheriff administration complex for years, expending tremendous time, energy, and money to exhaustively study the issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners established a committee, named the Justice Complex Committee (JCC) to work through the differences expressed among the Board and, after careful consideration and deliberation of those differences, make recommendations to the Board as to the resolution of those differences; and

**WHEREAS**, the major difference recently has been the actual location of the jail and sheriff administration complex; and

**WHEREAS**, the JCC has professionally and scientifically evaluated more than 30 sites in and adjacent to the city of Allegan, as well as, the Dumont Lake County Services Complex, with the site proximate to the Allegan County Courthouse in the city of Allegan having been most intensively studied by far; and

**WHEREAS**, after that thorough study, the JCC voted unanimously to reject the site proximate to the Allegan County Courthouse in the city of Allegan, based primarily on the site not having sufficient acreage for the current and future Justice Complex needs of Allegan County; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful consideration of additional factors, including the stated and reiterated positions of the city of Allegan and Allegan Township, the JCC voted unanimously to recommend to the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, that the Dumont Lake County Services Complex be the site of the new Allegan County Jail and Sheriff Administration Complex; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful consideration of the JCC recommendation, and reviewing the tremendous time, energy, and money involved to completely study the issue by the Board, other knowledgeable members of our government, community and professionals, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners voted to accept the recommendation (9-2) and site the new Allegan County Jail and Sheriff Administration Complex at the Dumont Lake County Services Complex, with only two dissenting votes by commissioners Spreitzer and Thiele; and

**WHEREAS**, after all that tremendous time, energy, and money expended deciding this issue, commissioners Spreitzer and Thiele continue to actively oppose the Large Majority, by first obtaining an informal proposal describing a courthouse square

site for the jail and sheriff administration building, by an Indiana firm known as RQAW, and then tenaciously promoting that proposal to various townships and others as a better alternative to the Dumont Lake County Services Complex site; and

**WHEREAS,** several townships have sent Resolutions asking for the Allegan County Board of Commissioners to consider the courthouse square proposal proposed by commissioner Spreitzer and supported by commissioner Thiele; and

**WHEREAS,** it is clear that the tremendous time, energy, and money involved to completely study the issue by the Board, other knowledgeable members of our government, community and professionals, and the results of all that work, are not known throughout Allegan County; and

**WHEREAS,** the Allegan County Board of Commissioners has decided to participate in a Regional Jail feasibility study with Kent and Kalamazoo Counties, with a report due in April; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners rescind the Resolution to not discuss the courthouse square jail and sheriff administration proposal presented by commissioner Spreitzer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners reserve the regular Study Session meeting of March 20, 2008 as the meeting where commissioners Spreitzer and Thiele present the courthouse square jail and sheriff administration

building proposal to the Board and the Public, in the Zimmerman Training Room at the Dumont Lake complex, inviting the firm of RQAW to explain their proposal, and all of the units of government in Allegan County to attend; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that as soon as possible after the Regional Jail feasibility study report is available for proper evaluation, projected to be in April of 2008, that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners holds a Special Meeting in the Zimmerman Training Room at the Dumont County Services Complex to present additional information and add discussion to the careful consideration of the courthouse square jail and sheriff administration proposal, and discuss the Regional Jail feasibility study, inviting all of the units of government in Allegan County to attend; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the chairman of the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, and the chairman of the JCC, and the Administrator work to assemble all of the information needed for the Allegan County Board of Commissioners to carefully study and evaluate the courthouse square proposal, utilizing all other knowledgeable members of our government, community and professionals involved throughout the years of work expended.

Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga, to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried

by roll call vote: Yeas - 9 votes. Nays - 1 vote. Absent - 1  
vote.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY

*Joyce B. Watts*, Clerk-Register

APPROVED: February 28, 2008

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources - Local Municipalities  
(through Admin.)