



Otsego County Press Release: Otsego County Announces Scaled Back Plan for Jail Proposal

August 13, 2021

Otsego County has been working diligently on a “Plan B” after the Otsego County Justice Complex proposal was not passed on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

A new jail remains the highest priority of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners for safety and security reasons. This need has not gone away.

We’ve heard your voices. Otsego County professionals and elected officials engaged in meetings, conducted a survey, and received extensive feedback from the community as to why the proposed Justice Complex was not supported. The consistent feedback identified two main reasons:

- (1) the project was too big/too expensive, and
- (2) many community members understand the need and would support a millage for a new jail, but not necessarily an entire complex (the former Justice Complex proposal included a new jail/sheriff office plus a second story devoted to the court system and prosecutor offices).

In response to this feedback, a Plan B has been developed that has nearly cut the proposed building in half and entirely removes the “complex concept” from the millage request. **The new millage proposal is ONLY for a Jail/Sheriff Office.**

Additionally, the original 120-bed proposal with a shell built to expand to 178 beds, has been reduced to a **96-bed jail with no expansion shell.**

The previously proposed Justice Complex building would have been an approximately 60,000 square foot facility. The new millage proposal for strictly a Jail/Sheriff Office facility is planned to be approximately half of that, **31,000 square feet.**

The building cost of the Justice Complex was projected to be an estimated \$30 million. For the Jail/Sheriff Office, the building cost is estimated at **\$15 million.**

The operations component of the millage request has been **reduced by nearly 20%,** to reflect the reduction in the number of jail beds in the millage request.

The proposed 20-year millage request has been reduced from 1.95 mills to **1.15 mills.**

The Otsego County Board of Commissioners approved ballot language to ask the voters to approve a 1.15 mill request for a new Otsego County Jail/Sheriff Office, to be on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

***See page two of this document for a side-by-side comparison of the previous Justice Complex proposal to the new Jail/Sheriff Office proposal.

**SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE OTSEGO COUNTY JUSTICE COMPLEX PROPOSAL TO THE
UPDATED PROPOSAL FOR THE JAIL/SHERIFF OFFICE ONLY**

	JUSTICE COMPLEX OLD PROPOSAL	JAIL/SHERIFF ONLY NEW PROPOSAL	SAVINGS	The new millage proposal includes ONLY a 96-bed jail/sheriff office, NOT a full justice complex.
Building Size included in the millage proposal (in square feet, rounded figures):				
Court Side	22,607	-	(22,607)	
Jail Side	37,320	31,000	(6,320)	
	<u>59,927</u>	<u>31,000</u>	<u>(28,927)</u>	48% Reduction in sq ft
Number of Jail Beds in the Housing Pod:				
	120	96	(24)	20% Reduction in jail beds
Shell for additional 58 beds to total 178		no shell in this plan		
Estimated Cost funded through millage (rounded figures):				
Court Side	\$ 9,000,000	\$ -	\$ (9,000,000)	
Jail Side	\$ 21,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ (6,000,000)	
	<u>\$ 30,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,000,000</u>	<u>\$ (15,000,000)</u>	50% Reduction in building cost
Operations funded through millage (rounded figures):				
20-Yr Total	\$ 17,520,000	\$ 14,460,000	\$ (3,060,000)	Operations reduced to reflect fewer jail beds
Estimated Interest Rate:				
	2.13%	3.05%	0.93%	Interest Rate has increased some
Total Projected Interest Cost over the 20-year life of the bonds (rounded figures):				
	\$ 6,790,000	\$ 4,785,000	\$ (2,005,000)	Interest savings over 20-yr period
Total All-Inclusive Cost included in the millage proposal (rounded figures):				
Building	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ (15,000,000)	
Operations	\$ 17,520,000	\$ 14,460,000	\$ (3,060,000)	
Interest	\$ 6,790,000	\$ 4,785,000	\$ (2,005,000)	
	<u>\$ 54,310,000</u>	<u>\$ 34,245,000</u>	<u>\$ (20,065,000)</u>	GRAND TOTAL MILLAGE PROPOSAL SAVINGS
Millage Request:				
	1.95 Mills	1.15 Mills	MILLAGE REQUEST REDUCTION OF 0.8 MILLS	