Board members present: Chairman David Bowen; Vice-Chairman Alan Crankovich; Commissioner Perry Huston.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Fred Slyfield, Sheriff’s Office; William Holmes, Director of Probation Services; Tom Swenson, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Matt Anderson, Human Resources Representative; Gene Dana, Sheriff; Clayton Myers, Undersheriff; Lisa Young, Training & Safety Manager and Duke Senter, Computer Services Director.

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Bowen opened a special meeting with representatives from the Security Committee.

Fred Slyfield, Sheriff’s Office explained how the Security Committee had previously made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on November 19, 1997, as well as an Security Audit that was provided by Charles A. Foster, from the Office of the Administrator for the Courts (dated April 23, 1996). The Security committee was hoping to get some type of action from the Board of County Commissioners in relation to an increase of security presence within the Courthouse.

Commissioner Huston explained the reason that the Board has not moved forward with all of their recommendations in the past, was due to the lack of funds available. He noted some things had been done to increase security (Lower District Court, Employee ID Badges, locks etc.). He said the Board of County Commissioners would take the lead in prioritizing issues submitted by the Security Committee. He explained there needed to be harsh protocol established for everyone when it comes to security, and not just selected employees/public. If there is something put in place, everyone will comply. William Holmes said in recent discussions the Board has had with the Judges, the Juvenile office has not been mentioned, and he felt a great deal of concern because of the high number of confrontations going on in their office, when they are trying to restrain juveniles.

Discussions were held on having an armed security presence in the Courthouse. Some of the information that needed to be established was related to hiring, training standards and schedule (where will they be). Perry said once those questions were answered, the budget
would follow. He said he did not want to create a "security office" and therefore the most logical department for security personnel would be housed out of the Sheriff’s department.

Planning assumptions: Permanent County employee versus Contract Agency. If the County established a permanent employee, it would be under Union Contract with specific duties outlined and would have limited commission. Fred Slyfield felt the position should have other duties to try and alleviate burn out (from constantly walking the halls of the Courthouse) and that part of their position could involve civil process, juvenile transport and security. William Holmes questioned if one person would be enough. Concerns of hiring an outside agency would be the lack of control.

Brainstorming needs:

General presence in Courthouse
General presence in Courtroom
Be able to take juveniles while under arrest & detention
Transport
Arrest authority
Civil papers
Presence in Treasurer’s office during busy times & while going to bank for deposits (asset protection)
Randomness
Special duties/evening meetings
General information (PR)
Technology (hardware) not there yet
Involvement in Security Committee
Mail screening (when suspicious packages are received)
Personnel escort (if needed to parking lots)

Matt Anderson said he was not sure if the position would be necessary under the Sheriff. Clay Myers said they would not fit in under the patrol or corrections, but could be included with the civil transport positions.

Future discussion included: Review needs list, create a training needs list and cost out position.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.