

# Coffee County Strategic Planning Committee

## Feb 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Claude Morse, Lynn Sebourn, Jimmy Hollandsworth, Dennis Hunt, Ron Fuller, Brent Willis, Robert Norfleet, David Young

Members Absent: Dennis Hunt

Guests: Judge Will Lockhart, Circuit Court Clerk Jenny Anthony, Chancery Court Clerk and Master Sheila Proffit, Director of Probation Linda Baer

Chairman Sebourn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The committee met with members of the county judicial system to discuss current and future needs of the county judicial system and to discuss impacts from future growth.

Topics discussed included:

- An overview of the roles and responsibilities of the courts and associated county departments.
  - Noted that provision of a court system is mandated by state law and the constitution.
  - Work of the court system touches the lives of every citizen, even if not involved in criminal cases, through actions such as probate, divorce, conservatorships, adoptions, etc.
- The need for safety improvements at the current Coffee County Judicial Center
- Issues in the working environment at the Judicial Center, including shortage of courtroom space, inadequate record storage facilities, lack of private space for confidential meetings, and lack of secure parking and entry for personnel.
- The need to begin planning for the construction of a new Judicial Center. Discussion included consideration of proximity to the jail and examples of other communities who have built new justice centers in recent years.
- Status of IT (computer systems) and needs for improvements in electronic record keeping.
- Level of workload in court cases, probation visits, and legal filings and impacts of growth in the county to the workload and personnel levels.
- State of employee morale, which was generally regarded as good.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm.