

# NEWS RELEASE

Somerset County Government

## Somerset County Launches Jail Bond Education Initiative

Somerset County officials have been meeting with members of their Jail Advisory Committee to officially launch efforts to educate the public about the November 8th jail bond vote.

“This is a complicated issue and we want to be sure that voters have all the facts before they decide,” according to Commissioner Hatch. To bring the facts and figures to the public, the Jail Committee developed a comprehensive “*Sourcebook*” that answers dozens of questions about the planning and the proposal, and that provides detailed information about costs and alternatives. They are also distributing an informational flier throughout the County.

Jail Committee member Steve Steward told the group that “we worked very hard to look at all the options -- including continuing to board excess prisoners in other counties, and renovating the old jail again. In the final analysis, building a new

jail on a new site proved the most responsible solution for the long run.”

“We need to act quickly to contain our jail costs,” urged Sheriff Barry A. DeLong. “We expect to spend more than \$574,000 this year to board out our inmates to other counties and this does not include the transportation costs which are increasing more rapidly now due to gas prices.”

Commissioner Gerald York states “that unfortunately due to the lack of action in the past, we are being faced with this pay now or pay later situation. It is better that we pay now than wait and pay an even higher cost later.”

A *Sourcebook* is being distributed throughout the County as a reference document and is being mailed to each municipality. It is also posted on the Internet on the Commissioners’ website: [www.somersetcountycommissioners.com](http://www.somersetcountycommissioners.com)

ers.com. The web site provides a wealth of information about the planning, the proposal, and the costs associated with the bond issue. “We want the public to know that we looked carefully at all aspects of this problem, and considered all the alternatives,” Commissioner Dunphy said.

Jail Committee members have already started to take the jail proposal on the road to towns and various community organizations. They invite any interested group to contact the County Commissioners to schedule a presentation. The current calendar of presentations is attached for this release, and is being expanded daily.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the County Commissioners Office at 474-9861 or E-mail: [somerset@mainester.net](mailto:somerset@mainester.net).