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County will take Omaha prisoners

By LOU ANTONELLI - Managing Editor - Daily Tribune

Titus County Commissioners Monday approved an agreement that would allow the City of Omaha to house prisoners in the Titus County jail on a per capita basis.

Sheriff Tim Ingram reported that while Titus County has agreements with a number of other entities to house prisoners on a contract basis, Omaha has not been one of them. He said the city could like the option to send Class C Misdemeanor prisoners to the Titus County jail, at a cost of \$36 per day per inmate, rather than the Morris County jail in Daingerfield.

County Auditor Carl Johnson questioned with a quip whether the city wanted to send Titus County the prisoners who are "too rowdy" for the Morris County jail.

Ingram denied that, and said the Morris County jail is much smaller than Titus County's and there's been worries about space. "I don't think there's going to be a lot of prisoners," he said, but without a formal inter-local contract for detention services Omaha isn't able to send any prisoners to Titus County if it wants to.

The Titus County jail is larger than the one in Morris County, noted Ingram, "we have a nice jail."

County Judge Brian Lee asked, while the subject was raised, whether the implementation of the county bail bond board has increased the Titus County jail population.

He said bail bondsmen fought against stricter standards for writing bonds, saying "the jail's going to fill up."

Ingram said that while you might think that, it doesn't happen. He said that while he was researching the creation of the bail bond board earlier this year, he questioned Hopkins County – which already had a board in place – and was told it had no effect.

The same has been true for Titus County so far, he said.

It seems the bondsmen “have been a little more choosy” about who they write bonds for, noted Lee.

The next meeting of the Titus County Bail Bond board will be Thursday, Dec. 1, at 3 p.m. at the county courtroom at the courthouse.