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## Douglas Commission Approves Bond Agencies for \$107M Jail

Good numbers from Moody's and Standard & Poor's could lead to the county receiving better interest for the new facility.

By [Michael Stone](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 4, 2011

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The Douglas County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved two agencies for bond ratings for the \$107 million in bonds being used to build the new county jail.

The two agencies—Moody's and Standard & Poor's—will collectively cost the county \$28,500 for the bond rating assessments.

"Frankly, the fee (from bond rating agencies) is much higher than it use to be because they're much more cautious," Commissioner [Mike Mulcare](#) said, adding there are also fewer of the agencies because of recent economic troubles.

With the county's historically solid credit, Mulcare said he expects to get two good bond ratings. The better of the two scores, he explained, will be used so the county gets better interest rates on the bonds.

The commissioner said the cost of the \$107 million bonds for the jail, to be built off Interstate 20 at Highway 92, may seem high to some, but the expense is well worth it. It will be both state-of-the-art and eye-appealing, he added.

"It's important that probably the most prominent and largest building in the county—especially with that exposure on the interstate—looks good," Mulcare said. "So this jail will be attractive, and that's important to property values and just the character of the community."

A drawing of the new jail is attached to this article.

The county's new 911 center is already being built on the same property as the jail, and more government offices will follow within the next 10 years, Mulcare said. He called it a "government campus."

Mulcare said that, as judicial services in the Douglas County Courthouse expand, non-judicial county offices will be phased out and moved to the campus.

In other business, the commission made several appointments and reappointments during Tuesday's meeting:

- Judge Robert Whatley to the Board of Health from now until 2016.
- Gwen Leathers, Sandra Whittington, Roger Smith and Don Scarborough Jr. to the Cemetery Preservation Commission Board from now until 2014. Commission Chairman [Tom Worthan](#) said the cemetery board has done a good job of preserving the county's cemeteries and has even found some that were not previously known.
- Ruthie S. Purdue to the Board of Assessors from now until Aug. 20.
- Gary Miller, Gary Warner and Allison Williams to the Hospital Authority Board.
- Commissioner Mulcare as the board's vice chairman. This position means Mulcare will service as chairman at meetings if Worthan is absent.

The board made three announcements:

- The Douglas County Courthouse will be closed on Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- The board's work session has been moved from Jan. 17 to Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.
- The "Chat with the Chairman" event scheduled for Jan. 24 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the fire station in Lithia Springs on South Sweetwater Road at Groovers Lake Road. The event is open to everyone.

The meeting was the first for recently elected Commissioners [Henry Mitchell III](#) and [Ann Jones Guider](#).

"They're both experienced legislators," Worthan said. "We shouldn't skip a beat moving Douglas County forward in 2011."

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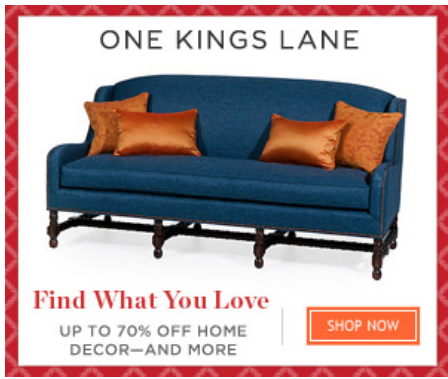
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