

Minutes
January 7, 2020

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol, Mark Gazarek and Brian Robertson

Also Present: Sarah Mutchler, City Councilman Dennis Hellmann, Bruce Workman, William Bateson, Auditor Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Tim Stuart, Mayor Christina Muryn, Paul Schmelzer, Anne Spence, Sheriff Michael Heldman, Bruce Miller, Kasey Corbet, Judge Johnson, Shawn Carpenter, Judge Reginald Routson, Clerk of Courts Cathy Wilcox, Judge Jonathan Starn and Jim Maurer.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Bechtol began by reading ORC 153.36 which states "If the plans, drawings, representations, bills of material, and specifications of work, and estimates of the cost there of in detail and in the aggregate, required in sections 153.31 and 153.35, inclusive, of the Revised Code, relate to the building of a courthouse or jail, or an addition to or alteration, repair, or improvement thereof, they shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners, together with the clerk of the court of common pleas, the sheriff, and probate judge, and one person to be appointed by the judge of the court of common pleas, for their approval. If approved by a majority of them, a copy thereof shall be deposited with the county auditor and kept in his office." Timothy wanted to make sure that everyone was under the impression that this statute applies for the work Garmann Miller is doing for the design of the Juvenile Probate Court building.

Bruce Miller stated that Garmann Miller had reworked the plan to include an entrance from the North and South for the building connector between the Juvenile Probate Court building and the Historic Courthouse. He also said they extended the space behind the new building to allow a Sheriff's vehicle to drive behind for adult prisoner drop-off. They could not rework the design to allow for sight line of the Municipal Building from W. Main Cross.

Timothy Bechtol opened the meeting for discussion from the elected officials listed in ORC 153.36 for their opinion on the location of the proposed building.

Mark Gazarek reported his preference would be the Media One site. He said this for the following reasons: the space adjoining the Courthouse is a cramped footprint; does not want to cut Dorney Plaza off from the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts; the existing Juvenile Probate Court building could be made into storage space for records; and the Juvenile Probate Court staff would not have to move out of their existing space during construction which eliminates the need to renovate a temporary office space.

Judge Johnson believes the statute applies in this matter and suggested the Media One site so that the project moves forward in a timely manner.

Clerk of Courts Cathy Wilcox said her preference would be the Media One site as well. Her office needs storage space. Therefore, she would like the current Juvenile Probate Court building be made into storage space for the County.

Sheriff Michael Heldman agreed the Media One site is his preference.

Judge Routson would prefer the Media One site due to the above stated reasons, along with aesthetic reasons. He wanted to clarify that the City would need to approve the County building on the location adjacent to the Historic Building due to a deed restriction, whereas if the County builds on the Media One site they do not have to get that permission. Mayor Christina Muryn said, based on concerns she has heard from City Council members, the Media One site would be the better location. Judge Routson also said the adjoined building with multiple entrances takes away the cost savings of joining the buildings. He is also concerned about parking for the elderly and/or handicapped.

Bruce Miller stated they would need to demo the existing Juvenile Probate Court building no matter the location of the new building because of parking.

Judge Starn believes this discussion is early, because the City has not approved the request to build adjacent to the courthouse.

Brian Robertson provided a visual breakdown on the benefits for building adjacent to the Historic Courthouse. Please see attached.

Timothy Bechtol said after looking at the possible site locations, he has the same amount of pros/cons for each site. He asked the Common Pleas Court judges if they had discussed whether Domestic Relations Court should be included if the site location is changed to Media One. Judge Starn stated they had not discussed that.

Mark Gazarek made clear that time is of the essence because the Commissioners borrowed the money for the project and have to use a certain percentage within 6 months. He suggested a roll call vote for the location. The roll call vote resulted as follows: Commissioner Gazarek, Media One location; Commissioner Bechtol, Media One location; Commissioner Robertson, existing site adjacent to the Courthouse; Clerk of Courts Wilcox, Media One location; Sheriff Heldman, Media One location; Judge Johnson, Media One location; Judge Routson, Media One location.

Garmann Miller will prepare drawings and cost estimates for the new location that include Domestic Relations court and without. The next meeting will be January 28.

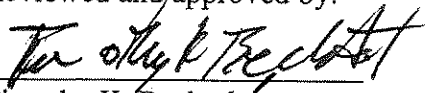
Judge Starn asked the Commissioners about the entrance to the Historic Courthouse. Auditor Rauschenberg said this was included in the paperwork for the borrowing. Mayor Muryn said she would be willing to help reach out to our state representatives to see if funding would be available for that project through the state capital budget.

Respectfully submitted,

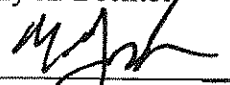


Sarah Mutchler, Clerk

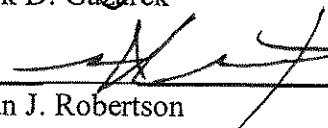
Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Mark D. Gazarek



Brian J. Robertson

Evaluation Matrix of Court Expansion Options / Impacts

Location Options	Synergy	ADA at Restrooms	Future Expansion TW	Greenhouse Resolution	Domestic Courts	Alpha Space CH & JB	Library Use
Adjacent	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Time Warner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Library	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

O = Some Benefit

X = No Benefit