

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Buildings, Grounds and Insurance Committee Meeting was called to order, in the Board Conference Room of the Oceana County Building, by Chairperson Meyette on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 10:31 a.m.

Present: Mr. Walker, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Christians, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, and Ms. Meyette. Absent: Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; and Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2021, Buildings, Grounds, and Insurance Committee Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Meyette asked if there were any changes to the agenda items.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda items as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

No public comments on agenda items at this time.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution regarding approving an amendment to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) agreement for airport improvements. There is an opportunity to have the runway/taxiway resealed and is not something that is available at all times.

Ms. Meyette questioned that there would be no cost for the County to have the airport runway/taxiway resealed. Mr. Sobie assured her that the County would not have any cost associated with this project.

Dr. Sobie began discussion regarding office space allocations in the County Building. Dr. Sobie had conversations with Judge Lambrix and Judge Springstead in regards to utilizing the Law Library as usable office space. Judge Springstead, Judge Lambrix, and their staff will determine which books would need to be kept and then decide what to do with the remaining books. For the time being, the books have been moved to various places throughout the courthouse until decisions can be made by the Judges on which can be kept.

During the conversations with both Judges, it was mentioned that there are some other needs the courts feel are necessary. It would be beneficial to have public kiosks for people to file their court documents online. The space for those could be found in the waiting area between the Circuit Court and Friend of the Court. It would be beneficial to have it located there because the Circuit Court staff would be able to assist the public if needed. Also, the kiosks could potentially be set to have access to an online law library.

Another concern that was addressed was how inadequate the Circuit Court Jury Room is. It's a small area that is supposed to house twelve jurors, two alternates, and has two bathrooms.

It was also discussed that the current office where the Child Support Enforcement Officer is located was done haphazardly by just placing a desk in a file storage area. Which also encompasses the need for more file storage areas. In an age where most things are digital, there are still some areas that require a paper file be stored and accessible for certain periods of time.

Another idea that has already been brought forth to Ms. Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner, was to have the Drain Commissioner's Office office be relocated downstairs in a shared area with the Equalization Department. This would require some remodeling, to have some separation between the two departments, but would be feasible in regards to adequate space to accommodate both. Ms. Martin is still deciding on what she would feel comfortable with.

Dr. Sobie also mentioned that, even though the courtyard has a beautiful tree located in it, the space there is potential usable office space. Dr. Sobie also suggested that renovations could potentially include adding more space towards the south end of the building, but there may be some issues that arise with that decision.

Another thing to consider is the age of the building and if massive amounts of money should be put into renovations. The same goes for the Sheriff's Department as well.

Ms. Meyette believes that reorganization will be the most feasible option.

Mr. Erickson sees merit to the utilization of the courtyard. Dr. Sobie noted that he will be meeting with an architect next week to see if there is some sort of visualization for turning it in to usable space.

Mr. Christians noted that expanding southward would not have as many limitations as would creating office space in the courtyard.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Meyette adjourned the Building, Grounds and Insurance Committee meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk