



Christian County Commission

100 West Church St, Room 100
Ozark, MO 65721

October Term

<http://ChristianCountyMO.iqm2.com>

~ Minutes ~

Friday, October 14, 2016

11:30 AM

The Christian County Courthouse

I. Convene

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter

A. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ray Weter	Presiding Commissioner	Present	11:30 AM
Bill Barnett	Western Commissioner	Present	11:30 AM
Sue Ann Childers	Eastern Commissioner	Present	11:30 AM
Krista Cronin	Deputy Clerk	Present	11:30 AM
Cheryl Mitchell	Assistant	Present	11:30 AM

II. Agenda

Motion/Vote -

Approve Agenda

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter entertained a motion to approve the agenda for today, October 14, 2016.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sue Ann Childers, Eastern Commissioner
SECONDER:	Bill Barnett, Western Commissioner
AYES:	Ray Weter, Bill Barnett, Sue Ann Childers

Motion/Vote - 11:30 AM Christian County Commission

Discussion - Courthouse Renovations Update

Attendees: Captain Richard Ramage, Thomas Koch - Operations Captain, Perry Barnes, Richard Teague - Building Maintenance, Amelia Wigton - Christian County Headliner, Josh Warren - Paragon, Barb Stillings, Judge Johnson, Cindy Childress, Prosecutor Amy Fite

The Christian County Commission met with Josh Warren from Paragon to discuss the Courthouse Renovations Update.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter said that currently the direction we're going involves the holding area, circuit judges, and utilization of that space. The current proposed holding area is in the southeast corner on the second floor. The proposal that has been put forth is to consider taking what was supposed to be the holding area and making that room the office of the Circuit Judge, and taking what was proposed to be the Circuit Judge's office and the Clerk's office and assigning that to the Clerk and the Court

Reporter, while creating a holding area for the subject of whatever proceedings are happening. This proposal could cost upwards of \$10,000.00, and there is also a concern with the appropriateness of housing a defendant in a public area where they're exposed in transit to the public, potential witnesses, jurors, and spectators. We need to have a robust discussion about what we're going to do. Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter asked Mr. Warren if he'd looked at the proposal.

Mr. Warren answered that he had looked at the email that was sent to him regarding the changes discussed. He also added that the new proposal would add more construction time and push pass the original November 30th deadline.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter asked if we are going to make that deadline.

Mr. Warren answered that we are still on track.

Eastern Commissioner Sue Ann Childers added that Sheriff Brad Cole hadn't been consulted, but he had mentioned that it wouldn't be wise to bring a defendant up to the second floor via the elevator because of security issues.

Captain Ramage said that where the holding cell is now is the best and safer option to transport the defendant up and down the stairs to the courtroom.

Judge Johnson said that in my own mind this never reached the level of a proposal. I know that in touring the building Jennifer Growcock had expressed interest in using that holding area for her office because of the efficiency of having three offices close together. This was more of a thought and preliminary discussion, and not a proposal. There are true concerns about safety and cost, and those certainly are legitimate concerns. This was simply a matter of preference and we just wanted to explore the possibilities. I'm more interested in changes to the courtroom itself.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter said I think it's been proposed that if the judge wants a little more spacious quarters, there is the potential for the north room on the second floor to be utilized as her office. She said that she will speak to Ms. Growcock about the office space options that have been discussed in this meeting.

Eastern Commissioner Sue Ann Childers said that there's been discussion of moving Auditor Lacey Hart over to the Public Administrator's office and then they wouldn't have to change anything.

Mr. Warren said that they were discussing subdividing the north room on the second floor long-ways to accommodate several offices and to provide adequate space for the judge, circuit clerk, and court reporter.

Operations Captain Thomas Koch asked if there would be criminal cases in the courtroom.

Judge Johnson answered that there wouldn't be, they're not going to have any defendants in custody in this courtroom.

Captain Koch expressed concerns of transporting potentially violent defendants from the jail in potentially inclement weather with limited man power.

Judge Johnson said that she thinks it will be the unusual situation when we have to transport someone that is going into custody. Civil matters will be handled at this court room, and criminal matters will be handled at the jail.

Captain Koch said that procedurally we shouldn't set ourselves up for potential problems.

Judge Johnson said that she and Mr. Warren had toured the courtroom and discussed fixing several problems, including accessibility issues for the jury, extending the platform that the bench is on.

Mr. Warren said yes, the pricing that was made was for painting, floor, ramps for the jury box, witness and stand ramps, extension of the platform, and new casework that would accommodate to fit those proportions.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter told Mr. Warren that we need the change orders so that they can be discussed, addressed, and voted on.

Mr. Warren said that he's been in discussion with Trotter Construction to get the change orders in hand.

Judge Johnson asked about the timeline on the future Judicial building.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter said that he had a conversation with Michelle Bock of Piper Jaffray to try to establish a timeline for the financing of the building. It may be June before we actually go out on the market for the financing bonds. The consideration for the scope of the building was for a 32,000 square foot building with two courtrooms, one built out, and one has a future courtroom available for meeting and jury selections. I don't know how far forward we can move until the financing is acquired. We will have some revenue from the Property Tax Levy in December and March, so we'll have some resources to try to do what we can. I can't promise that the building will be done by 2017. There are too many variables.

Presiding Commissioner Ray Weter asked if there were any other questions in regards to the Courthouse Renovations update. There were none.

III. Adjournment

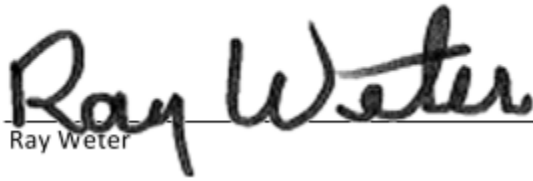
The meeting was closed at 12:20 PM

Motion/Vote -

Motion

Eastern Commissioner Sue Ann Childers moved to adjourn.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sue Ann Childers, Eastern Commissioner
SECONDER:	Bill Barnett, Western Commissioner
AYES:	Ray Weter, Bill Barnett, Sue Ann Childers


Ray Weter

Presiding Commissioner, Ray Weter


Bill Barnett

Western Commissioner, Bill Barnett


Sue Ann Childers

Eastern Commissioner, Sue Ann Childers