

**AT A BUILDING COMMISSION AND COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING HELD FOR
PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AT THE COURTHOUSE, ON TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: GENE McCONNELL, PRESIDENT; CARL HEVENER AND
CAROLE HARTMAN**

**BUILDING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: JEFF BOWERS, JIM BROWN AND
MATT HARPER**

**COUNTY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: ELISE WHITE, COUNTY CLERK; KAREN
PITSENBARGER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Gene McConnell opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and explained that the County has a need for additional office space. The County did not have office space available for the new prosecuting attorney and had to rent space. The Commission is looking for a long-term solution which would also allow the prosecuting attorney's office to be in the Courthouse. He stated that several years ago plans had been drawn up for an annex but were not followed through at that time.

Jeff Bowers stated that the Supreme Court required separate office space for the judges and that there is no available space for attorneys to have private meetings with their clients. Carole Hartman also stated that the sheriff needs a separate office for privacy when discussing cases and that there is a need for additional storage space. One option would be to add a basement to the annex that could be used for storage.

Gene mentioned that the Building Commission has the authority to borrow money, the county government does not. He also stated that right now interest rates are low. The estimate in 1994 was \$2,500,000 (this included the partial renovations that were done at that time). In 2013, the estimate for an annex was \$2,300,000 from Silling Architects. All agreed that the figures would most likely be doubled for today.

The existing plans show the annex to be next to the Courthouse. Gene said another option would be to put a building up in the parking lot area on High Street. Both Jeff and Matt Harper gave the opinion that it would be better if the annex was next to the Courthouse. Matt added that only one HVAC system would be required and that would enable there to be just one secure entry point into the building.

Carl Hevener mentioned that any plans would have to be approved by the historical society. Carole stated that there could be some EPA issues with the underground storage tank and the generator. There was some discussion as to whether they could build around the generator or whether the generator was even needed.

All members of the Building Commission agreed that the annex should be added to the Courthouse. Jeff Bowers made a motion that the County move forward with building an annex. Matt Harper seconded the motion.

Judge Carl stopped in and was updated on the annex project. He stated that there may be some grants available that the County could apply for to assist with the project. He will get in touch with some of the folks in Charleston and have them contact the Commission to discuss specifications and grants.

The next step will be to have the existing plans reviewed and updated if possible. Gene will contact Tom Potts at Silling Architects in Charleston to inquire if they will be able to use the existing plans since they were not drawn up by them.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Gene McConnell, County Commission President