

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE WORKSHOP

Thursday, September 21, 2017

6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of conducting an Historic Courthouse Workshop.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte, **Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie, **Vice Chairman**
 Giles E. Byrd
 P. Edwin Russ
 Trent Burroughs
 Ricky Bullard
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

William S. Clark, **County Manager**
 Mike Stephens, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**
 Bobbie Faircloth, **Finance Officer**

WORKSHOP CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman James E. Prevatte called the Historic Courthouse Workshop to order, and stated this workshop will be an informal discussion on what we are going to do with the Columbus County Historic Courthouse.

STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

1. **Vice Chairman Amon E. McKenzie:** stated the following:
 - My recommendation is that we use it for County Administration;
 - The courthouse represents Columbus County; **and**
 - The present Administration building would be used for Probation.
2. **Commissioner Charles T. McDowell:** stated the following:
 - We need to decide what we will put upstairs, and then decide what goes downstairs; **and**
 - The upstairs activity will influence what needs to be put downstairs.
3. **Commissioner Ricky Bullard:** stated the following:
 - We expended \$12 - \$13 million dollars on the new courthouse; and
 - We need to use the Historic Courthouse for Administration and the higher up offices.
4. **Commissioner P. Edwin Russ:** stated the following:
 - My recommendation is to rent office space at the Historic Courthouse to attorneys; **and**
 - Have offices for HUD.
5. **Commissioner Trent Burroughs:** stated the following:
 - I don't have any particular purpose for the Historic Courthouse;
 - We have spent several thousands of dollars for engineering fees; **and**
 - If we change the purpose of the Historic Courthouse, it will cost additional money.
6. **Chairman James E. Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - I think we need to use one (1) courtroom and put Juvenile and Adult Probation in the bottom;
 - We will need to bring the bathrooms up to code;
 - We are paying \$2,000+ rent for Probation; **and**
 - If we put Administration in the Historic Courthouse, we will have to remodel two (2) buildings.
7. **Commissioner Byrd:** stated the following:
 - The DA's have fine offices; **and**
 - The Judges have fine offices.

- 8. **Larry Hayes, Maintenance Manager:** stated the following:
 - The important thing to consider is what you need the Historic Courthouse for;
 - I think we need to keep the Historic Courthouse under the legal umbrella;
 - We have a lot of divisions that would fit well in the courthouse;
 - I think you make a mistake when you mix county and state organizations;
 - That building is worth preserving and those plans are not for preservation; **and**
 - Are you looking at a complete re-modeling or preserving what is there now?

- 9. **Chairman James E. Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - We need to look at the office footage and the number of offices involved in Administration; **and**
 - We need to look at the courthouse footage and the number of offices available.

- 10. **Commissioner Charles T. McDowell:** stated the following:
 - It appears that we have the following two (2) options:
 - use for judicial; or
 - use for the Administration Building;
 - The first thing we have to do is to find out how many people would fit in the basic floor plan; **and**
 - We need to decide how many doors we will have and the layout.

- 11. **Chairman James E. Prevatte:** stated the following:
 - We need the square footage at the Probation/Parole building;
 - We need the square footage at the Administration Building; **and**
 - We need to know the square footage at the Historic Courthouse.

After discussion, it was the general consensus to set the next Historic Courthouse Workshop at the October 02, 2017 Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:07 P.M., Chairman Prevatte stated the Columbus County Historic Courthouse Workshop was adjourned.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

JAMES E. PREVATTE, Chairman