

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County
Courthouse Committee**

CHAIRPERSON: **LaDon Trost**

DATE/TIME: **January 23rd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

☒ LaDon Trost - Chair
☒ Melisa Hammer
☐ Scott Toot

☐ Don Zillig
☒ John Lang
☒ John Schultz

☒ Kathy Phillips
☒ Kevin Turner
☒ Angie Kaiser

Others: Mary Althof, Stephan Roberts (Baird), Tammy Cahill

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – There were no minutes to approve.
4. **Citizens Comments** – None.
5. **Unfinished Business**- None.
6. **New Business** –
 - a. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Committee Vice-Chairman for Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County Courthouse Committee - **John Schultz made a motion to nominate Melisa Hammer as Vice-Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County Courthouse Committee. Seconded by Kathy Phillips and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**
 - b. Presentation by Baird representative, Stephan Roberts – Stephan Roberts, Baird representative, gave his presentation. He spoke of how interest rates have spiked in the past year. There is a trend going down, however, as of late. He mentioned a bonding process and how that will take 2-3 months. He explained the process and how to go through it, based on his experience. The County Board could pass what is called a Reimbursement Resolution, which would take funds the County currently has, and then could be reimbursed when the bond issues after the lengthy 2-3 month process.
 - c. Goals and purposed of the Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County Courthouse Committee -
 - i. Security –
 - ii. Space –
 - iii. Efficiency –
 - iv. Costs –
 - v. Allowable Construction – Angela Kaiser commented that she wants to have this Committee be productive and be able to make decisions on what we will be doing with the Courthouse. We need to get somewhere with what is going to happen, and want to make sure everyone is on the same page. Another building is not available to buy, so she believes we need to

move forward with rehabilitation. She feels like we keep getting stalled. Trost commented that we do not have the money to build an entirely new building. Hammer thinks that the first decision that needs to be made and brought to the county board is whether we are renovating or building new. Sheriff Turner added that even if we do add onto the current Courthouse, parking is already an issue and will become an even bigger issue. He suggested we incorporate that into our plan as well. **Melisa Hammer made a motion to forward to the County Board, a recommendation to rehabilitate the current Courthouse building. Seconded by John Schultz and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes. Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Absent - 2.** John Lang brought up the parking issue. He's hoping to get that problem remedied in addition to this rehabilitation. There was more discussion on parking.

- d. Discussion on ARPA Funding – We have to be obligated by the year 2024. We have until 2026 to complete the project. Phillips reiterated the fact that we do not want to get 'stuck' in Phase 1. Kaiser said that without Phase 2, Phase 1 is essentially just going to be a storage space. John Schultz said we should move on this bond process while the interest rate has dipped, and isn't historically high. We'd be foolish not to jump on it while interest rates are somewhat reasonable. Lang asked if it would be possible to use the ARPA money to pay the first couple of payments on the bond, since it's a cost of the project. Kaiser said as long as we bond for enough in addition to, because we're going to need that 4 million plus another 12 million bonded. Chairperson LaDon Trost said that he was hoping to have weekly meetings, but if we are going to take the moving forward with rehabilitation to the County Board, he feels it's illogical to do any more work on this until we have the approval of the County Board. He is suggesting that the next meeting be after the County Board meets in February. Sheriff Turner mentioned that we will need to address storage.

7. **Citizens Comments** - None.

8. **Committee Concerns** – None.

9. **Next regular meeting** – February 15, 2023.

10. **Adjourn** – John Schultz made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by John Lang. Motion carried with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.