

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

CHAIRPERSON: **LaDon Trost**

DATE/TIME: **June 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

PRESENT:

☒ LaDon Trost - Chair
☒ Melisa Hammer
☒ Scott Toot

☒ Don Zillig
☒ John Lang
☒ John Schultz

☒ Kathy Phillips
☒ Kevin Turner Zoom
☒ Angie Kaiser

Others: John Grizzoffi

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of the June 1, 2023 Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County Courthouse Committee meeting – **John Lang made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 Ad-Hoc Jo Daviess County Courthouse Committee meeting. Seconded by John Schultz.** Angie Kaiser commented that in section 6. New business, b., the minutes state “Kaiser questioned if it is just the courts that have to be in the County seat”. That was Phillips. **Melisa Hammer made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Angie Kaiser and motion carried following a voice vote. Ayes – 9: Melisa Hammer, Angie Kaiser, John Lang, Kathy Phillips, John Schultz, Scott Toot, LaDon Trost, Kevin Turner and Don Zillig. Absent – 0.** The committee then voted on the original motion and motion carried following a voice vote. **Ayes – 9: Melisa Hammer, Angie Kaiser, John Lang, Kathy Phillips, John Schultz, Scott Toot, LaDon Trost, Kevin Turner and Don Zillig. Absent – 0.**
4. **Citizens Comments** – None.
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Update on Courthouse Renovation Project Status – Scott Toot commented that we have met a few times. This committee met on June 1st. The courthouse is subject to zoning. Bill Groh, LaDon Trost and Toot also met with the City of Galena to try to come to some sort of an arrangement regarding the zoning issues we have. The courthouse is zoned as low density residential. There are four lots on the courthouse and it needs to be rezoned in order for the permit for construction can be approved. Also, per the City’s zoning ordinance jails are considered an institutional indoor intensive land use which is not permitted in a low density residential district by right or as a special use. Kaiser commented that they have a separate address don’t they. The jail address is 330 ½ N. Bench Street. If it was 330 ½ and it was considered separate could that be exempted out. Turner verified that the jail is 330 ½ but when they connected the building in 1996 that is when they started using the 330 address for everything. Toot was told the jail is not allowed in this low density residential district. The solution moving forward as

suggested by the City is to rezone the parcels as a planned unit development. They have given us a timeline and it could be done in August, it could be done in September, but it will push the project out by a couple of months because we have to get the permits to go forward. Toot explained the process to the committee. Trost commented that the City was very courteous, they listened to us and they want the project to go forward. It is a process just like our zoning is. People have to accommodate our zoning and we have to accommodate theirs. This is not going to be a problem but this will delay the project a couple months. The Historic Preservation Committee may not like the design and the architects may have to make adjustments to that. We need to have the zoning change in order to move forward. There was discussion on the possibility of a short-term rental of the Galena Primary School for temporary offices/storage. Toot commented that we will have more information from Shive-Hattery where we are at with the design elements in time for the next committee meeting.

- b. Update on Courthouse Renovation Project Bonding – Scott Toot commented that we had our bond sale last Thursday and it went better than planned. We had lots of people that wanted our bonds and we ended up with \$50,000 more for the project because of the demand and the interest rate went down. Hammer has set up instructions for them to wire the projects funds on June 28th when we close. There has been a new account set up for the funds to go to and we need to set up a new special fund as well.

6. **New Business –**

- a. Discussion and possible action on the placement of the Courthouse Addition Secured Entrance – Center of Addition – LaDon Trost commented that there was much discussion on this at our last meeting. Sheriff Turner has agreed to the centralization of the entrance to the new courthouse addition. There was discussion on placement of a body scan machine. We are uncertain if it will be included in the renovation or at a later date. Trost stressed that security is paramount on this project. **Angie Kaiser made a motion to place the Courthouse Addition Secured Entrance in the center of the addition. Seconded by John Schultz and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes. Ayes – 9: Melisa Hammer, Angie Kaiser, John Lang, Kathy Phillips, John Schultz, Scott Toot, LaDon Trost, Kevin Turner and Don Zillig. Absent – 0.**

7. **Citizens Comments** - None.

- 8. **Committee Concerns** – John Lang thanked Sheriff Turner on this issue and the leadership that has been shown by the chairman and County Administrator and the people we have been working with. John Schultz echoed Lang’s comment. Schultz is unhappy with the zoning, but understands it. It is a process we have to go through. Angie Kaiser thanked everybody else for all of their work. Scott Toot commented that both Shive-Hattery and Conlon will be here for our next meeting on July 20th.

9. **Next regular meeting** – Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

10. **Adjourn** – John Schultz made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by John Lang. Motion carried with a voice vote resulting in all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.