

Herkimer County Legislature
Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, June 19, 2020
Via Teleconference
Follows Human Resources and Ways & Means

Persons Attending:

John P. Stephens (Chairman, Public Safety/W&M committee member)
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Public Safety committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member, both)
William Weakley (Public safety committee member)
Peter Campione (Public Safety committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Ways & Means Committee Chairman)
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member, both)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Scott Scherer, Sheriff
Scott Leskovar, Undersheriff
John Raymond, Director of Emergency Management
(Non Committee Members Signed In)
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator Bob D. Hollum
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.
Legislator John L. Brezinski
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Ray Donley

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Stephens called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Items Discussed:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

1. Approve monthly report of the Sheriff – May
2. Other

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

3. Amend SPO agreement with CVA in Sheriff's Department
4. Approve Sheriff decals, emergency equipment in F250 and transfer of funds in Sheriff's department
5. Approve purchase, amend budget and transfer funds in Sheriff's Department
6. Approve contract for repairs at the Sheriff's range and amend budget for FEMA
7. Authorize mileage reimbursement for Deputy Fire and EMS Coordinators in Emergency Services

8. Approve purchase and installation of antenna system at Spohn Hill tower in Emergency Services
9. Discussion on Sheriff's Administrative Building
10. Other

Committee Vote Record:

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Stephens stated "Number one approve monthly report of the Sheriff for May."

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Public Safety, Item #1 was voted on and approved. Unanimous.

Item #2 – N/A.

PUBLIC SAFETY/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Stephens stated "I am going to move number three down to the bottom because I think that is going to be lengthy. So the new number 3 is amending SPO agreement with CVA in the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff is here. Would you like to speak on that?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "Yes. We are not looking for another position but CVA is looking for another officer. We already had the positions in place. In our agreement it just says one Deputy Sheriff or SPO or SRO. We are looking to change that to up to four. At some point down the road I don't want to keep coming back but they are looking to have one for every school that they have. Right now they definitely want two so it's at least two so I am looking for up to four. We already have those part time positions in place on our salary schedule so I am just looking to amend the contract from one to up to four."

Mr. Russell stated "That's not my concern. My concern is how many people would be new out of that four? Three?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "They only want one more right now so we already have a salary schedule part time so yes they would have another part timer over there."

Mr. Russell stated "I understand we have a salary schedule part time but would you have to hire somebody?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "No. We have a person already hired that's working Deputy Sheriff."

Mr. Russell stated "My concern is if we go into COVID again and then what happens?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "They are part time like the other part time SPOs. When we are in COVID they don't get paid unless we need them to do building security here because our other Deputies are out on navigation or something else. Our other two part time SPOs have been paid. Twice with one and three times with another because they are covering full time Deputy Sheriff's here who are out on other details."

Mr. Russell stated "Ok. I understood that they were all working full time."

Sheriff Scherer stated "No. We only have one full timer and he fills in at DSS when he is not in school so we get reimbursed through DSS on that end."

Mr. Russell said good.

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens stated “Number four Approve Sheriff decals, emergency equipment on the F250 and transfer of funds to the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff, you are on again.”

Sheriff Scherer stated “We discussed this last year at the end of the year and was told to come back to committee a little later on because we talked about some things in between that. Originally I was looking at \$8,906.45. I tried to trim some off of that and I got it down to \$5,917.00. This would be to decal and put some lights and a radio in our F250 truck so when they go up for navigation it is a marked vehicle. They would be able to do emergency operations if they had to pull a boat somewhere to get it somewhere else to get it in the water or if like this past weekend they stopped, they have a fatal accident in Old Forge about a week ago. Our guys stopped on scene. We were one of the first on scene to render help. They are on a curve and they are out there helping somebody with no lights on a vehicle or can’t contact EMS by radio where there is no cell phone coverage. There is just a liability on our end. When it’s up in Old Forge it’s the Sheriff’s Department on it. That’s a good thing that they know we are up there and we are working.”

Item #4 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Malta for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson asked “Are we doing the bare bones? I mean this vehicle is not being used 24/7. Light on top and siren?”

I’m going to try and get it even lower. We’ve got to put some back lights on it, some in the front. That’s going to kind of be it and put a radio in it. Because we are up at that distance the radio wattage is more because we have a lot of dead spots up there. That’s \$2,000 and that’s the radio.”

Mr. Johnson said ok and thank you.

Mr. Stephens stated “Number six approve purchase, amend budget and transfer funds in the Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff has the floor”

Sheriff Scherer stated “So what we are looking at is I sent some paper work out to everyone on the committees. Currently we have three boats. We have an 88 Boston Whaler. The steering is shot on that boat, other issues with that boat. We have a 2000 Boston Whaler seventeen footer. That boat is the only boat in service right now and has a maximum speed of 15 mph. When they responded to the accident a couple of Sundays ago, they had to go from First to Third lake. It took them seventeen minutes to get there with the maximum speed of 15 mph. The boat we don’t own is a New York State Marine boat that’s a 2009 angler. That boat is out of service with steering and motor issues. If we do fix that boat we are responsible for the money to fix it. The State will not. We have talked to Rivetts. They can do the steering part of it but then they said they it has to go somewhere else. We picked Bolton Landing to do any other mechanical work on it. They will not work on that boat because it’s a different motor than the type of steering and the motor issues they don’t would on so we would have to go the Bolton Landing where they worked on it a couple of years ago and that would be at our expense. I went through and looked at some boats to purchase some new boats. We can get reimbursed up to 50% for the boats through New York State Marine Services. 50% for the boats, the trailers, the decals, anything we put on those boats is at 50% reimbursement. I was looking at two boats. They are Glasstreams to purchase. The total price for the boats, decals and outfitting of the boats would be \$68,809 and the State would give us back \$34,405 after

reimbursement. We can sell the 1988 Boston Whaler. The motor on that is around \$12,500. If we could auction it off or sell it, the \$34,000 we would cut that down. I would give the boat back to the state that is broken and we won't want to repair and then the one that's on the water now up to 15 mph, we would use that for the canals down here because that is the only one working right now for us. The reason I picked the Glasstream boat was an authorized dealer in New York, the only one is Oakhill Sales. He is the only authorized dealer. The closest other dealers, there is five in Florida, one in Texas, one in Kentucky and one in Japan so that's why I did not go out to bid. These are 2019 leftover boats. The owner there is giving them at less than what he paid for the boats because they are leftovers. I went on the market and can't even find a 2019 now and if you look at the 2020s, you are already \$5,000 to \$6,000 higher base price on them and I don't think you would want to go down to Florida to look boats or in Kentucky."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "The 50% reimbursement does that count for what Mr. Wallace said about only expecting 80%?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "I have talked with our Marine guy and got a confirmation that those boats would qualify reimbursement. He said right now I can tell you we would give you 50%."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "So even recently with all the COVID stuff going on?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "That is what he is telling me."

Mr. Wallace stated "Remember, that's coming for the agencies that saying that. Whether DOT, whether it's 911, the budget office is saying at best 80%. It would be 80% of the half. That's what we have to plan on. If we get more, phenomenal."

Sheriff Scherer stated "This program may be gone next year for the 50% reimbursement."

Mr. Malta asked "Sheriff, so you are saying that we can get two boats for about \$24,000?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "\$34,000."

Mr. Malta asked "What is the availability at this dealership?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "They are in stock in Frankfort right now."

Mr. Malta asked "So they can go on the water when?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "We get a radio put in, get some striping on, hopefully a couple weeks. JPJ would be putting the radio in for those boats. We are going to try and pull radios out of the old boats for that."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "Lights too?"

Scott Scherer responded "A couple little strobes on top and some on the back. They come with brand new trailers."

Mr. Johnson stated "We didn't go to State contract for the boats. Sheri, did we look like we usually do?"

Sheri Ferdula stated "You have to do a mini bid on the State website and to be honest I don't know if they have boats, any bid process takes three to four weeks."

Sheriff Scherer "So for time frame and then like I said, I felt comfortable with this because he is the only dealer in New York. The next closest dealer is Kentucky, five in Florida."

Mr. Johnson stated "My only other comment is last year the boats were fine and this year they are total pieces of junk."

Mr. Hollum asked "Sheriff is there any plans in the future possibly issuing tickets?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "We have started that this year. Our guys have been trained a little bit more. We send them to a couple of classes of other departments that go out and do boat patrol. They actually issued a ticket in that accident. A registration ticket so they are getting more into that. They are going to be working with local PD up there that's going to do some DWI stuff with them. We are looking to get that rolling and moving forward and get some tickets going and being a little more aggressive. We've already got several phone calls from residents up there stating that one of her boats was by the channel for about two hours and nobody sped through and that's never happened before so we are hearing good things coming up from Old Forge right now. That's a good thing to hear."

Mr. Ackerman asked "I appreciate you going local but say this dealer goes out of business, is there anybody else in the state that fixes these?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "It's a mercury motor so there are other dealers. That's what you're looking at. You're not looking at the boat as you would the motor."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "This might be a different topic but, can we have some of our highways mechanics work on boats?"

Mr. Bono responded "No. They are a different animal. I've been through this with my own boat. These mechanics are specialized."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "You can't send them to training?"

Mr. Bono responded "Not worth it. Go to a specialist. They deal with it every day. These guys have enough to do. That's my feeling Mark."

Mr. Johnson asked "Scott, storage of the boats will be at the new Correctional Facility?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "I'm hoping. Something we could talk about a little bit later but we do pay storage in two spots right now for our boats. Plus we pay by week, storage behind the old jail. Maybe we could put up a pavilion then park them underneath because that is all it is at fairgrounds. We could probably save \$3,000 a year, pay for that in four or five years and then it's free parking and coverage after that."

Mr. Russell asked "Where is the money coming from? Has Jim Wallace been talked to about this?"

Mr. Bono stated "The money is coming from boarding out Pat?"

Mr. Russell said thank you.

Sheriff Scherer stated "Ten year full warranty and our cruiser usually has a three year on the motor. I'm just saying that because I bought one for my dad's boat and it had a three year warranty and a ten year on the whole warranty."

Mr. Schrader asked "So we are looking to save money in that capacity too?"

Sheriff Scherer said yes.

Item #5 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens stated "Number six approve contract for repairs at the Sheriff's range and amend budget for FEMA. I'm assuming FEMA reimbursement."

Sheriff Scherer Stated "Yes. My Undersheriff is working every Tuesday with FEMA on the phone for an hour trying to get our range repaired. We finally got our bids in. The bids came in for repair and mitigation so if this happens again it hopefully won't be ruined again. The total of the estimate was \$15,763 and this was done by the Halloween flood. We are also looking for the Undersheriff's hours that he has been working on this and time with everything and the people we had out during the Halloween time for reimbursement of about \$6,000. It's going to be 75% FEMA and 25% State to have this repair done and the \$6,000 that they owe us in hours from whether it was cars on the road or salaries for the people that were out there during the flood. So I'm looking to get the project approved and then we will put in to get reimbursed for the grant."

Mr. Johnson asked "Are we making it available to the local police departments?"

Sheriff Scherer stated "100%. We got all of the local departments already booked. The person that can do the fixing of the range I talked to him last night. He had two big projects get moved back a little bit so in about a week and a half, two weeks, he could get this in and get it up and running. The other local departments, if he couldn't get this done, we have our 4-wheelers up there and our side by side parked. I told him we can get him up this far and could bring it up for an emergency vehicle if something were to happen up there. Every department is good with that."

Mr. Johnson said "Ok. Great."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "Aside from repairs, are there going to be any upgrades included?"

Sheriff Scherer responded "There is going to be mitigation so we can do like a swale so if the water does come over again because the barrier gets blocked, it will actually swale through and go back down. Undersheriff, do you want to talk about that? He's worked on a lot of this."

Undersheriff Leskovar stated "So basically, the problem is at our twenty five yard range for qualifying is where the water is coming right across. It's busting on the high side, coming across the range, creating all of the damage and going back down into the creek below and it's also washing out the road. What FEMA requires to quote to bring it back to normal is pre flood conditions and then have a quote from mitigation on top of that. The mitigation part of it, they are going to basically in the creek above the range, they are going to build up where it is busting on the high side. They are going to build up that embankment, force the water back beyond our twenty five yard range, in between the pavilion and the twenty five yard range creating a swale twenty feet wide, eight inches deep total so that it hits that, carries it back down to the lower side of the creek and keeps it away from the range, keeps it away from the road where the damage was in 2013 and now again in 2019. That's the plan."

Mr. Gaworecki said thank you.

Item #6 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #6 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens stated “Number seven approve the mileage reimbursement for Deputy Fire and EMS Coordinators in Emergency Services. This is what I was talking about with the previous discussion that we had. I would entertain a motion for the same Local Law. John Raymond is on the phone. John, if I say anything wrong, correct me. His numbers are around \$2,400 to cover the whole year. One of our coordinators, that is probably the most active, put in for 645 miles last year. It equated to a little over \$350 for the one. Some of them don’t put in any. \$2,400 to \$2,500 would be sufficient just for Emergency Services and then according to Kathy, I don’t think we would be even close to that for Meals on Wheels. Any other discussion?”

Mr. Russell stated “No I’ve got to ask a question. What are they getting mileage for?”

Mr. Stephens stated “They get mileage when they are dispatched to an emergency on behalf of the County.”

Mr. Russell stated “Thank you. I have to recuse myself on this because my brother is one.”

Mr. Stephens said correct.

Item #7 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #7 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Yes: Stephens, Malta, Johnson, Ackerman, Weakley, Bono, Smith, Shaw (8). No: None. Abstain: Russell(1).

Mr. Stephens stated “Number eight approve purchase and installation of antenna system at the Spohn Hill tower in Emergency Services. John Raymond, quick rundown please.”

John Raymond stated “This is to finalize a major portion of the radio system that we are installing. We’ve made tremendous progress this week because the weather has been good. We’ve done work at McCauley and Steuben Hill. They are still doing work at Dairy Hill right now. The antennas are needed primarily for Spohn Hill which is in the Town of Columbia that serves the southwestern portion of the County’s 911 system. It’s antennas and a whole bunch of related parts would be paid for out of the State Interoperable Communications Grant 2016 and this will close this grant out. Once this purchase is made I think there is like \$30 left in the grant account.”

Item #8 – On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Campione for Public Safety, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ackerman for Ways & Means, Item #8 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Stephens stated “Number nine discussion on the Admin building. Proposed Admin building for the Sheriff. Ray Johnson and myself and a couple others have been work this with Sheri, the Sheriff and the Undersheriff and there is numbers everywhere. Sheri, if you want to talk?”

Sheri Ferdula stated “A few months ago we did an RFP for different options on the buildings and remodeling of the Treasurer’s and then we started to get into some discussions about a modular. We’ve been in discussions with Vanguard Modular on an eighty one hundred square foot building that would be our new Sheriff’s administration. Their pricing comes off of a piggy back contract that we that we plan to piggy back off of to get the discounted pricing. What we are looking at for the modular building is about

\$775,000 for everything. There is a few different things in there that we have looked at that maybe we might want to upgrade. Some of these buildings have like steel siding. We would like that to look a little bit nicer with the new jail. With a few upgrades here and there we put in a budget of \$150,000 for that. And there's a few charges for building plans and foundation plans so cost for the build would be \$939,155. The additional cost to us we would be we are in charge of the site work which means putting in the foundations, connecting the utilities and running the data and electric wires within the building. We would also be in charge of fire alarm systems, data, telephones and security. I did a little budget of what we think those things would be and I went a little bit higher than what I would exactly need to be but I don't want to give you numbers that are too low. That cost comes in around \$681,000. We would need to hire an architect to help us with that site development portion of it. They would do the bid package for the site development and they would organize all of the electrical work that needs to be done in the buildings, security systems and all of that. Those came back yesterday ranging from \$30,000 to \$62,000 so depending on who we go with there that's going to fluctuate. Just for the purpose of having a budget I used \$50,000 for an architect as a number and that would put our total cost for this building at \$1,670,175. Compared to our original cost of building a building or remodeling here which were in the millions. Three to four million was the average. Any questions on that?"

Mr. Russell stated "I don't believe in a minute it would be three to four million dollars. What are we going to do with the three buildings that we are going to have empty? Have we thought about that? Why can't we utilize the Treasurer's building and the other building to be able to house the Sheriff's Administration?"

Mr. Bono stated "I think the cost is just prohibitive there. We had a cost of about, I think Sheri said, three to four million if not more, Jim?"

Mr. Russell stated "You're saying you have to do all of this renovation. I don't think you have to if you're doing both of them together. You might have to do some."

Mr. Stephens asked "Why would we want to do just a portion Pat?"

Mr. Ackerman asked "What else are you going to do with the building?"

Mr. Bono stated "My opinion is, the Treasurer's building can be utilized for...the IDA is going to be looking for space. Our lease is up very soon. We could put the IDA in there. We could put an incubator type facility for businesses. Rent that out and let start-up businesses in there. It would be a perfect location for it. We could utilize that building that way. And there is storage. We could certainly use it for records storage so that building is not out of the question. It's in decent shape and we spent some money there in the past. The thing you would have to worry about is the current jail. It's going to cost about \$550,000 to knock it down or leave it and store voting machines in there. We need a place to store those. As far as the Courthouse goes, we could talk to the college. They have always wanted a presence downtown. Talk to the village. See if they want to make a community center, a coffee shop, I don't know. There's ways of doing it."

Mr. Russell stated "It makes no sense for the college to go there. No sense whatsoever."

Mr. Bono stated "It's just an idea Pat."

Mr. Johnson asked "Can we look at what it would cost to tear the old Courthouse down? Let's face it, it's tired."

Mr. Bono stated "I don't know if you can tear it down. It's on the historic registry. I think you would get criticized by the public."

Mr. Gaworecki stated "I would love to see the college be downtown."

Mr. Bono stated "Unless we have those conversations, we don't have the answers. The college can get 50% match if it does something with it as far as renovations go."

Mr. Russell stated "You said renovations are three million. They don't have a million and a half dollars to put into that building if that's the true cost."

Mr. Bono stated "Pat, that's if you want it renovated 100% to the hilt."

Mr. Russell stated "That's exactly what I am trying to say. I tell you I wish I was there. I wish we were all there in person so we can discuss it. I just don't know why we can't utilize both of those building, the Treasurer's building and that other building. Ray and I talked yesterday about maybe utilizing the jail once we get out of it. I just hate to see \$1.6 million for something we are going to have three open buildings. I know people disagree with me but I don't think we need it. The Tobacco money can be used for other capital projects as well which I know we have things down there and we are still talking about not being able to get enough money for the flood issue and all of that stuff."

Mr. Bono asked "That quarter percent, can that be used for the admin building?"

Mr. Wallace stated "I would have to revisit that, guys."

Mr. Gaworecki stated "You mentioned the IDA possibly taking over one of the buildings. Would they be able to get grants to fix it up?"

Mr. Bono stated "Don't forget our consultant; they are looking at grants for those buildings. They are on it right now."

Mr. Ackerman asked "IDA taking over what building?"

Mr. Bono stated "Not taking it over, renting it from the County. They pay rent to the ARC so why not pay it to the County."

Mr. Russell asked "Why wouldn't they go back to Working Solutions?"

Mr. Bono responded "I don't think there is the room there."

Mr. Stephens stated "You are only talking about the first floor in the Treasurers, right?"

Mr. Johnson stated "In the Treasurer's building we have had studies done two years ago when we had issues with the floor. It is structurally sound. We know that because we brought engineers in. The Treasurer's building is a good building. I don't think it's a problem finding use for it. It's the other two. What's everybody want to do?"

Mr. Bono stated "The only way to tear it down is to condemn it. It's useable. There were some issues in the cellar and some drainage. It's a beautiful building historically. The public would have an outcry."

Mr. Schrader asked "How much are you thinking for rent with the IDA right now?"

Mr. Bono stated "I think it's like \$1,700 a month. Don't hold me to it but it's up there."

Mr. Hollum stated "The quarter percent for this sales tax goes to paying for the jail. Is there anyway the administrative building would be considered a part of the jail?"

Mr. Wallace stated "We can have an answer early this afternoon on that."

Mr. Gaworecki stated "Do we know if the college is even interested in anything?"

Mr. Bono stated "I've talked to Dr. McColgin. We needed to talk on it and we would schedule something and then COVID hit and it sort of went on the back burner."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "They're not totally against it right off?"

Mr. Bono stated "No but to Pat's point though, they are stressed up there too. Although numbers are up I guess in enrollment."

Mr. Ackerman stated "One, you have to find out what the quarter percent is going to be to see if this will be eligible for that. Number two, you need to decide what you are going to do with the rest of the buildings before you do anything because if you are not going to do nothing with them then I think it's foolish to build another building with all of this empty space. I'm not saying we don't have to find something but have a plan before we spend \$2 million. Something has to be set in place for all of this. We can't just keep spending money. We build a jail and then the Governor turns around and deep sixes us and now we have half the people over there. I think we will look foolish putting another building in front of it. Another \$2 million when the Governor is taking 20% of our budget away."

Mr. Bono stated "Do we sell the Courthouse? Put a restriction on it that it can't be torn down and maybe a developer would want to go in there and make apartments. I don't know. Sell it."

Mr. Stephens stated "Do we just want to have Ray and I get together with Sheri and the Sheriff and formulate a plan here and then come back?"

Mr. Bono stated "I think we should all tour it like we've toured the new jail. Most of us haven't been through those buildings. I have, but some of you have not been through those buildings and you need to see where the kinks are and what the problems are and then you will get a good idea of hey, you know, it's deeper than you think here. Or, maybe you will have a different view."

Mr. Johnson stated "I did talk to Mark the other day as far as the old jail. We can remove all of the old cells. That's not an issue. They did do a study about a year ago. I don't know if we need storage that bad to store the old records. I agree with Kurt. Figure out what we are going to do with the other buildings before we move forward. I think it's a great deal rather than have a nice new building with three empty buildings if we don't know what we are going to do with them."

Mr. Wallace stated "Or do you bite the bullet and spend \$15 million to upgrade all three of them? I'm serious. That's the money you are talking about."

Mr. Ackerman stated "What are you going to upgrade it for? We don't need the space."

Mr. Wallace stated "I'm just saying, if you are not going to build a new building."

Mr. Ackerman asked "How many square feet is the old Courthouse?"

Mr. Bono responded “Roughly 12,000 square feet.”

Mr. Wallace stated “About 8,000 in the old Treasurer’s.”

Mr. Ackerman stated “I can’t see it being \$3 million \$300,000 per 1,000 square feet. That’s insane. You could build two new buildings for the price of remodeling one. That doesn’t make any sense.”

Mr. Stephens stated “To your point Kurt, that estimate was back in 2016 and they said at that point figure a 3% inflation rate every year. So you’re talking another 9% on top of that.”

Mr. Ackerman stated “Let me explain how that works. Same thing happened with the City with the pool. They get a number that is five times greater than they are going to spend and you put out there saying well we looked into it and that’s why that number is so high. That’s what they did down there at the pool. God rest his soul, that’s what the old Mayor did. Then you go back out to bid ten years later and it comes back in one single price.”

Mr. Bono asked “When are we going to have the tour?”

Mr. Johnson stated “We had the same issue when we did the jail.”

Mr. Bono stated “Just a thought here. Our next meeting is July 1st. We are going to go live then. If you guys don’t want to come we will have you on the phone but I would like to go live whether it’s at the college or we have it here, by then we will have some restrictions lifted hopefully. So, let’s go live July 1st and just suggest to the committees that we have a tour. Get here at noon and we will tour the three facilities, two of them anyways. Jail is going to be tough to do.”

Mr. Johnson asked “Can we do it through the iPad for those who can’t make it?”

Mr. Bono responded “As far as Wi-Fi, I don’t know if there is any over there. It would have to be streamed on somebody’s phone. I would like everyone to get a tour because you’ll appreciate what’s there and what isn’t.”

Mr. Stephens stated “So you want us to set that up and get going?”

Mr. Bono stated “Yes and then let’s take it from there. Then you get eyes on it because you don’t know what you are talking about. I am telling you right now most of you don’t know what you are talking about until you see it.”

Mr. Ackerman stated “But none of us are builders. I understand it’s in bad shape but you are still saying you are going to gut this many square feet and then you are going to come in and re-sheet rock it. There is no way every 1000 square feet is \$300,000.”

Mr. Johnson stated “But then you have to bring it up to code remember.”

Mr. Wallace stated “Don’t forget the elevator. You have four floors.”

Mr. Johnson stated “You’ve got bathrooms you have to bring up to code. Let’s put it out to bid. Have Sheri put it out there to remodel the Courthouse.”

Mr. Campione stated “You also have to look at the price of the utilities and the maintenance of the building verses new verses old and take that into consideration too.”

Mr. Johnson stated "I agree with that but you still own the other one. It's not like we are getting rid of it."

Mr. Stephens stated "At this point we will set up a tour."

Mr. Campione stated "Sell all three as a package."

Mr. Bono stated "No. That's part of our campus. We need the room though. We need parking, we need stuff like that. The Treasurer's is connected to our building. The current jail has a small footprint. And it's a specialized building. It would be tough to sell. The Courthouse may have some potential and again that's a historic part of the County."

Mr. Stephens stated "All right. Let's set up a tour. Ray, Sheri and I will get going on this and then I will let everybody know. Anything else under other for Public Safety? Motion to adjourn Public Safety."

At 11:14 a.m., on motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Bono, the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee adjourned.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.