



# COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

5/23/18

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## MEETINGS AND SITE VISITS

- The Courthouse committee met with several groups and other stakeholders.
  - On multiple occasions the committee met with the City representatives Ms. Carolyn Dull and Mr. Kier.
  - Clerk of the circuit court for both the city and the county
  - Judge Ludwig, Judge Goodwin, and Judge Shaw
  - Commonwealth Attorney
  - Union Bank representatives
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## MEETINGS AND SITE VISITS

- The committee visited and toured the following buildings:
    1. The Cochran Judicial center
    2. The Echols Building
    3. The 1901 Circuit court
    4. The General District / Juvenile Relations court buildings
    5. The Union Bank building
    6. Beverley Manor Elementary School
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# OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- **Consolidation with Staunton:**

This option would consolidate the County and City court functions completely. After researching this option it was determined that both the County and City would have to hold a referendum to consolidate. Both referendums would have to pass in order to complete the consolidation. Consolidate courts would use a renovated 1901 courthouse as well as a new expanded courts facility on the Union Bank lot, and the Cochran building for JDR court.

- **Renovate the 1901 building, Renovate the Echols building, and Renovate the General District building :**

This option does not allow for future growth and continues to require the County to operate three buildings.

- **Renovate the 1901 building and expand on to the Union Bank lot with a new addition:**

After further meetings with the city expansion of the Circuit Court across Johnson street is not a possibility. The cost provided to us from Union is too high to make this a sound financial option.

- **Build a new building on the Union Bank lot and renovate the Circuit Court:**

The cost provided to us from Union is too high to make this a sound financial option.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED OPTION

- **Demolition and rebuilding of the General District Courts Building (Old County Bld):**

This option would remove the General District building and re-build a new building on the same property.

1. The new building would accommodate all courts. Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic.
2. It would also accommodate all of the clerks for the courts.
3. We will need to proceed through the City Historic review board in proposing the new building.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED OPTION

- **Renovate the 1901 Courthouse to office space.**
    1. The renovated courthouse would accommodate the Commonwealth Attorneys office, Courts Services Unit, and the Magistrate.
    2. Would keep the historic courtroom in place.
    3. Renovating to office space standards will save cost as many of the courthouse standards will not have to be met.
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## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED OPTION

- **Relocate the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Court to Beverley Manor Elementary school.**
    1. Will require some renovation of the space to make it acceptable for court functions.
    2. There is plenty of space and parking available.
    3. The location is a close distance to the existing court facilities
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## RECOMMENDED PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD

- Develop and advertise a Request for Proposal for architectural and design services on the recommended option.
- The RFP would also include needed renovations to BME for temporary courts.
- Further board discussion on the Historic tax credit process will need to be had as we move forward.