

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**June 7, 2011**

302 North Chicago Street  
County Board Committee Room  
Joliet IL 60432

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Maher called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were Members:** Dralle, Brooks, L. Smith, Traynere, Winfrey and Maher.

**Absent were Members:** B. Smith.

**Also Present:** County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld and County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen.

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** ASA M. Tatroe.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Brooks led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Dralle, second by Mr. Brooks, to approve the minutes of  
May 3, 2011. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Confirmation of Wight Recommendation on Sheriff's Law Enforcement Facility at the U.S.**

**Army Property at the Arsenal**

Mr. Maher indicated the committee should consider making a recommendation to Wight & Company regarding the Sheriff's law enforcement facility.

Mr. Dwyer stated the goal is to consolidate all of the law enforcement functions in one location and began a PowerPoint presentation illustrating possibilities. A maximum footprint for the proposed facility had been created, and it would be large enough to accommodate the department's needs until 2030. The property is along West Arsenal Road, and the U.S. Army is developing land across the street at the site of the old arsenal. Southwest from the location is an Army gun range, and a petroleum gas pipeline runs through the site. There would be two buildings on a 12-acre parcel: the primary law enforcement center with the office operations for most of the staff, and a support building devoted to training and long-term evidence storage. There would be parking spaces for staff and visitors, and storm water detention draining to the south. A second option on a 16-acre parcel would offer more flexibility, and Wight recommends this plan. If the board decides to continue working on this project, the dialogue would continue with the Army.

Mr. Maher commented this discussion didn't include a commitment to build a particular building. Instead it was a recommendation to the Sheriff's office to choose an option supported by the committee. Because the federal government probably will rent the parcel to the county there wouldn't be much of an expense to acquire the land.

Ms. Traynere asked about the plans for access from Arsenal Road.

Mr. Dwyer replied Arsenal Road is a county road. There are plans to widen it and add traffic signals. The entrance should be aligned with the entrance to the Army's new training facility.

Mr. Brooks asked if the county would invest millions in the property and never own the land.

Mr. Rafac answered it probably would be long-term lease for at least 30 years and perhaps as many as 100 years.

Mr. Maher stated no decisions would be made on the property until there was more information from the government.

A motion was made by Ms. Traynere, second by Mrs. Dralle, to recommend the 16-acre parcel.

All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

### **Approval of Capital Master Plan Workshop**

#### **a. Introduction**

Mr. Maher stated projects came to the Capital Committee piecemeal in the past. There wasn't a plan for the present or future of the county's capital improvements. A discussion of the future would establish the county's goals, including what needed to be done immediately and what could be put off until a later date. The decisions should be based on: the consolidation of services, improving the county's services, cost effectiveness, providing services in areas where there are large populations and updating outdated facilities. At the end of the meeting, the members should vote on the capital plan projects and determine the next step in the process, including identifying funding and establishing a timeline for the work.

Mr. Brooks asked for an explanation of the effect of the committee's vote today, particularly because of the lack of funding.

Mr. Maher answered it would initiate a list of project and activities for the county. Although the members of the committee ranked the proposed projects during an earlier meeting, the projects never had been approved.

Ms. Winfrey asked if the committee would be deciding today whether or not a proposed project went on the list.

Mr. Maher replied yes.

Ms. Zigrossi left the meeting at this juncture.

#### **b. Public Comment**

Judge Kinney stated the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit is in a crisis. Growth in the county has created an additional demand on the court system. A total of 863,959 people came into the court system in 2010 or about 80,000

people each month. The demand for court services is expanding. The 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit leases a courtroom in the EMCO Building to the federal government to use for bankruptcy cases. That lease is about to expire, and the federal government would like to renew it. That would be difficult because the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit is short at least one courtroom. But if the lease is not renewed, the 7,000 bankruptcy cases heard there each year would have to be heard somewhere else, perhaps in Chicago, a change that might inconvenience Will County residents. The courtroom is also used for about 5,300 Workman's Compensation cases each year. If the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit takes the courtroom back, the Workman's Compensation cases also would be heard somewhere else.

As Judge Kinney continued his review, he stated the Attorney General's Office is auditing the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and those results aren't available yet. On March 24, the Illinois Supreme Court issued a list of minimum courtroom standards, and it requires the County Board to comply with the terms and conditions. The chief judge must ensure compliance in each courtroom and ancillary facility, and it is mandatory. If it is not done, the chief judge must order it, according to the directive from the Illinois Supreme Court. The Public Building Commission has inspected every courtroom for compliance, and the circa-1969 courthouse doesn't meet the standards. It doesn't seem feasible and it might not be possible to improve the existing facilities to meet those standards. The most significant requirements involve security issues. In the elevators, hallways and courtrooms, prisoners and defendants mix with the judges, the jurors, the victims and court personnel. Victims and their families mix with defendants and their families. It is a volatile situation.

Near the close of his review, Judge Kinney indicated that because of the U.S. Census figures, there could be as many as five new judges in the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit, perhaps in the near future. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts has yet to commit the positions. There has been some discussion about the possibility of reallocating judgeships from one area to another. If the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit doesn't go after the positions, they might be permanently lost.

Ms. Smith commented leasing the courtroom to the federal government didn't seem feasible.

Judge Kinney agreed, adding he had given the federal government notice that the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit needed the courtroom.

Mr. Maher asked if the federal court would be an appropriate partner in a satellite facility.

Judge Kinney answered he did not know if the federal government would commit to sharing the costs of constructing one.

Mr. Maher suggested that it might be worth considering a joint project with the federal government. Could Judge Kinney schedule a meeting with Chief Judge Carol A. Doyle?

Judge Kinney answered yes.

Ms. Winfrey noted Judge Kinney had mentioned the possibility of five new judges. Was there anywhere to seat them?

Judge Kinney answered no. From the last Census, the two counties that would be entitled to additional judgeships would be Kane and Will. Both are approaching the Supreme Court and asking for them. Every time a new judge is added that requires two public defenders, three assistant state's attorneys, a clerk and a bailiff.

Mr. Rafac stated the overall cost of one new courtroom is about \$1 million.

Ms. Smith asked if the higher court provided five new judges would they arrive in a group or separately.

Judge Kinney answered he did not know if the five would be immediately authorized or phased in. The current budget proposal doesn't include any additional judgeships.

Mr. Maher asked if the issue would be addressed at the earliest in 2012.

Judge Kinney replied yes. If a judge retires from a circuit with a decreasing population, that is an associate judgeship that could be allocated to another area. But it is not clear how that will be handled.

Ms. Winfrey stated if the county didn't allow the federal court to remain in the EMCO Building it would be advisable to stay involved in that process. The people being served by that courtroom are constituents. If a far-flung new location is chosen it might place an unfair burden on local residents.

Judge Kinney agreed.

Ms. Traynere asked if bankruptcy court was in session every day.

Judge Kinney answered no. Bankruptcy court was in session on Fridays. Workman's Compensation used the courtroom four days a week.

Mr. Rauter stated he was not at the meeting to request money for WESCOM. Instead he would explain the functions of the telecommunications center, its future goals and plans. WESCOM covers a population base of 190,000 people, a land mass that is about 30% of Will County, one-fifth of Grundy County and a quarter of Kendall County. Formed in 1992, it includes 12 fire departments and seven police departments. Although WESCOM is much like a city, it cannot sell bonds and does not tax but can own land. The money funding WESCOM comes from grants and user fees. During 2001-2002, several studies by Will County 9-1-1 assessed WESCOM, and it was determined that Will County should have as many as three dispatch centers. Today there are eight despite the fact consolidation is cost-effective for emergency services. The last agency that joined WESCOM would have spent \$550,000 to keep a radio room and dispatch center open. It cost that agency \$230,000 to join WESCOM. In the late 2000s, Will County 9-1-1 began working on a consolidated center on Caton Farm Road that would have housed the Sheriff's Department, WESCOM and perhaps other agencies under one roof. WESCOM has been waiting for the completion of the Wight study to see if the agency's needs were compatible with those of Will County 9-1-1 and the other Will County departments. That does not seem to be the case. WESCOM needs a building constructed to be a 9-1-1 facility. None of the telecommunications centers were built that way, so the electrical and air conditioning systems aren't appropriate; the buildings aren't storm hardened; important components lack backup systems; and some of the technology has been force-fit. There also should be a

regional emergency operating center outside the emergency planning zones of the two nuclear power plants to provide a safe place to organize a response during some disasters.

Mr. Maher asked if there might be more consolidation among the existing telecommunications centers.

Mr. Rauter answered the studies recommend two or three centers for Will County.

Mr. Maher asked if it would be possible to consolidate more of the centers after the construction of a new building. Mr. Rauter answered at least two more centers are likely to approach WESCOM within five years because of the cost savings.

Ms. Smith asked if any of the existing eight centers currently were willing to join a consolidated effort.

Mr. Rauter replied Lincolnway, EASTCOM and Steger have been discussing the possibility. The city of Joliet has not indicated any interest. Romeoville and Bolingbrook have not given a clear indication of their future plans. Given the economy, Romeoville and Bolingbrook might consider it, but that is a decision that must be made by those municipalities.

Mr. Maher stated an answer would be forthcoming.

Mr. Thanas noted Joliet has had internal conversations about the possibility of consolidating Joliet's 9-1-1 services with other agencies. Although some of the political and geographic barriers of the past must be broken down, Joliet might enter the discussion. The city has had a change of philosophy during the past few years as to how it gets along with its neighbors. The city is trying to revitalize downtown Joliet and would like to use a \$30 million state grant to create a public transportation center near the courthouse and the Will County jail. The funding will give us a chance to address long-term parking needs with new structures and surface parking. It also will offer an opportunity to remove some unattractive buildings. The city of Joliet wants to work with the county to help solve the issues related to the courthouse while also working on the north campus. The city is happy to help the county with matters such as land acquisition, and that process already has been started by conversations with some property owners. Additionally, the federal government might well be willing to assist with funding for a new courthouse. Then there would be dedicated federal courtrooms in Joliet not only for bankruptcies but other federal court proceedings.

Deputy Chief Nowak stated the Wight study fairly described the Sheriff's Department's buildings as inadequate. The various operations also should be consolidated into one facility. Patrol, CSI and some functions relating to records are on Laraway Road. Support services and the investigators are in the Eagle Building on Washington Street in downtown Joliet. The age of the Laraway Road building makes it unsuitable for expansion. It has a leaky flat roof; it can't be converted to green technology because that would be too costly; the water is undrinkable; the plumbing and the restrooms are inadequate and unsuitable for the disabled; the septic field is inadequate; the mortar on the west side of the building is cracked and makes the structure drafty; and there are problems with the roof and the ceilings. There isn't

space for proper interview rooms, record storage, a safe holding cell or a room to process defendants during arrests. The roll call room is a trailer that isn't attached to the building.

As Deputy Chief Nowak continued his review, he discussed the problems with the Eagle Building. It is an HVAC nightmare with an old boiler and failing air conditioning. The electrical system is inadequate, so it is nearly impossible to install new computers. There are plumbing issues and parking issues.

Ms. Traynere indicated she would like to see the Sheriff's Department partner with the Army for training facilities.

Deputy Chief Nowak stated the department is working on a concept of operations for the Army. The Army has a gun range on the east side of the area where the department would like to construct a building. At this point, the range is under used. If the Army would allow it, the Sheriff's Department would manage a piece of it. The Sheriff has a significant amount banked from federal seizure money, and it must be spent on law enforcement operations. The Sheriff has committed to spending about \$700,000 on a down payment for the project.

Ms. Olenek stated the main part of the Health Department building dates to the 1920s, and there also are a series of additions built in later decades. The building is not energy efficient. Although the building will remain useful for an undetermined amount of time, there are serious structural and physical issues. The main campus in Joliet serves about 400 people daily, and about 300 people work there. The patrons come to the site for treatment at the clinics, to pick up permits or vital records and to attend classes, among other things. When the economy is good, the facility is busy. When the economy is tough – as it is currently – there is an increased demand for some services, including WIC and the health care divisions. Security is difficult to maintain at the building because there are many doors and windows and the main entrance is narrow. Funneling the visitors through the front door won't work because of the layout.

Mr. Maher commented the committee members recently visited the Health Department's campus and have seen the problems with the floors, windows and ceilings.

Mr. Thorne stated there are some mandated issues regarding energy and lighting but funding had yet to be identified. There has been quite a bit of progress on the ADA accessibility. The smaller projects have been completed and only the bigger ones remain.

Mr. Maher asked for a description of the bigger projects.

Mr. Thorne answered an ADA accessible elevator for at least three floors, a centralized washroom facility and improvements to the parking lot.

Mr. Maher asked if the parking lot improvements included ramps and changes to the grading.

Mr. Thorne replied yes. The changes would bring the facility into compliance. Other parts of the building's infrastructure also needed improvements, including the roof.

Mrs. Dralle asked if Aunt Martha's new health center that will be built on the site of the old Silver Cross Hospital would affect the Health Department.

Ms. Olenek answered when the Community Health Center's clinic was housed in the Health Department's main building, it was crowded. When the clinic moved into its new 35,000-square-foot facility, there was some extra space in the Health Department's main building but it has been reassigned and the main building is full again. Aunt Martha's move into Silver Cross will not decrease the health center's need for space.

**c. Wight Review of Scope and Projects of Master Plan**

Mr. Maher stated Mr. Dwyer would distribute a work sheet so the committee members could make notes during a PowerPoint presentation on Wight's Master Plan.

During his review of the PowerPoint, Mr. Dwyer explained the Master Plan process began with a space needs analysis. The long-range plan would be used to project the different growth rates for departments and the need for staffing and facilities. Consolidation and simplifying access to services were identified as important objectives in the planning process. Although some services eventually will be more easily available to constituents through the use of technology, others will prefer to interact with county employees during the process.

Mr. Maher stated it would be an appropriate time to discuss if WESCOM someday should be housed with Will County 9-1-1.

Mr. Dwyer agreed. WESCOM is not a direct county function but its work is similar to that of Will County 9-1-1. The Coroner also is involved in some emergency situations but it doesn't seem crucial for that office to be housed with Will County 9-1-1. Perhaps the coroner and the morgue should be housed in the same building, however.

Mr. Maher commented a list should be created of projects that will be tackled. But the current planning process didn't involve funding. That would be handled during the next phase.

Mr. Rauter stated WESCOM would be able to make a financial contribution if included in any of the county's plans for a future facility.

Mr. Dwyer noted Records Management was not included in the program although an analysis was completed of the department. Although the department probably would need more space someday for the storage of records, perhaps an improved filing system or the transition to digital filing would solve the problem.

Mrs. Dralle asked if Records Management still was storing furniture and other items in the building.

Ms. Johannsen answered some things still were stored there but not as much as previously.

Mr. Rafac commented the storage was temporary. Items are shifted there before being surplus.

Mr. Dwyer stated the Workforce Services Division should remain in the Renaissance Center on Ottawa Street in downtown Joliet. The county should not build a new facility for the department.

Mr. Maher asked if the department should be included in some future consolidation.

Mr. Palmer answered no.

Ms. Winfrey asked if the departments that don't need to be moved or upgraded were on the list distributed by Mr. Dwyer earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Dwyer replied no.

Ms. Winfrey stated the group probably could move to the process of ranking the projects.

Before continuing his review of the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Dwyer stated the meeting was an opportunity for the committee members to ask detailed questions and determine if they agreed with Wight's proposed plans.

Mr. Maher suggested the committee members should begin considering the departments that aren't currently housed in the County Office Building and determine their funding. Perhaps the departments would bring some funding to the table because it would no longer be necessary to lease their office space, for example.

Ms. Traynere asked if the workers would be affected if the Highway Department's administrators were moved to the County Office Building.

Mr. Palmer replied the Highway Department's management team currently is split up.

Mr. Rafac stated the county's leased office space costs about \$567,000 annually.

Mr. Maher noted a new County Office Building could be several stories high. If it is built on the 302 N. Chicago St. property it could become a northern gateway to Joliet's downtown.

Mr. Dwyer stated there could be some property swaps or other deals involving parcels near the current County Office Building. Perhaps there could be parking facilities that were shared with other nearby entities.

Ms. Smith asked for the number of parking spaces at the current County Office Building.

Mr. Dwyer answered approximately 212.

Mr. Maher stated the committee should decide if there should be a core group of county buildings on the north side of Joliet to house most administrative services.

Mr. Dwyer stated each footprint is planned for the space needs of 2030. The different sections of the buildings could be built in phases over time. In 2030, the County Office Building probably would need to be 184,000 square feet. In today's dollars, the cost would be \$51 to \$57 million, and the parking would cost \$7 to \$8 million. Those figures don't include the costs of requiring nearby properties and some pieces of equipment such as employees' computers.

Mr. Maher commented the expense was about the same amount of money as was spent on the jail and its expansion.

Mr. Dwyer stated Wight & Company's cost estimations are based on their understanding of municipal facilities and experience. There always is latitude.

Mr. Maher indicated the committee members shouldn't dwell on the costs at this point in the planning.

Mr. Dwyer stated the Justice Complex would have to be built in phases because of its size. Perhaps the courthouse would be built first and an agency office building could be constructed at a later date. Because space is relatively tight at the site, it might be a much taller building.

Mr. Maher asked for the identification of a building located near the railroad tracks.

Mr. Dwyer answered it was the Eagle Building.

Mr. Maher noted the space might be available if someday the Sheriff has a law enforcement complex at another location. If that happens, could a parking facility be built there?

Mr. Dwyer stated the site could become parking, green space or part of a future private development.

Mr. Palmer commented there continues to be a shortage of parking in downtown Joliet. Any new parking spaces would be valuable now and in the future.

Mr. Maher stated if the city of Joliet creates a transportation center at Union Station the need for parking spaces will increase. It might be time to acquire land and bank it for the future. If the current courthouse is vacated, perhaps there could be a joint park project between the county and the city.

Mr. Thanas stated the city would see the site as an ideal place for a private project oriented toward transportation. A town square or plaza is being planned across the street from the Rialto Theatre on the site of the building currently used by the State's Attorney.

Mrs. Dralle asked if the new court building could be built in stages and then used solely for civil cases. Felony cases could be heard at the existing courthouse.

Mr. Dwyer stated it was possible but impractical to build a new courthouse and then add additional stories to the building. If the long term goal is to consolidate the courts, it might be better to construct one large new building and leave some of the floors as empty shells. That space then could be built out over a period of time. Keeping the criminal courts in the existing courthouse poses a security problem because different groups aren't separated. There isn't an area for the movement of jail inmates and prisoners. There isn't an area for the secure movement of the judges and other court staff. It would be very expensive to remodel the building and add separate corridors for the different populations. Perhaps that building could be used for civil proceedings, however.

Mrs. Dralle noted there had been discussion in the past about keeping the existing courthouse and building a second court building, considering the transition and the expense.

Mr. Maher asked if the furniture from the existing courtrooms could be used in a new court building.

Mr. Dwyer stated it might be a challenge.

Ms. Traynere stated she was not a proponent of tearing down the buildings and then building a new agency office building. The old courthouse should remain in use as an agency office building. Additionally, fifty years from now, the existing courthouse might have some sort of historical significance.

Mrs. Dralle agreed.

Mrs. Traynere added the concept of a revenue stream was a good idea, however. The County Board might realize later that a parking structure would generate enough income to build a new building. Although the current courthouse has security problems, it might work well as an office building.

Mr. Maher stated the question involved the long and short term. On the short term, the courthouse building should remain in use. It couldn't be torn down and then all the new buildings built at the same time. In the long term of 30-50 years, it makes more sense to bring these agencies together.

Mr. Dwyer noted this board might make decisions but future boards might disagree. It's important to build flexibility into the plans. The Master Plan might include options such as the full consolidation of the court-related buildings or keeping the existing courthouse and selling the EMCO Building.

Mr. Maher stated a lot depends on the county's proposed acquisition of the First Midwest Bank building at Ottawa Street and Jefferson Street. At some point, the decision might be made to use the courthouse for a period of time as long as 15 years. It also might be better for the entire community if something else is built on the site of the existing courthouse.

Mr. Dwyer stated if the site at the former Joliet Arsenal doesn't work for the Sheriff the plans could be used as a footprint for a building at another location. If an alternate site didn't require space for storm water detention the footprint might be smaller.

Mr. Maher asked if the Master Plan should reflect about 16 acres to consolidate the Sheriff's operations in one location.

Mr. Dwyer replied yes.

Ms. Traynere asked how much the Sheriff's facility would cost.

Mr. Dwyer answered it would be \$22 to \$24 million for the primary building and \$4.4 to \$5.4 million for a building devoted to support and training.

Mr. Maher noted Will County 9-1-1 and WESCOM might not want to be so close to the nuclear power plant. With the space needs of WESCOM, could that agency be incorporated into the facility with the square footage proposed here today?

Mr. Dwyer answered no.

Mr. Maher asked for the total of the square footage needed by WESCOM.

Mr. Rauter replied the question was difficult to answer. The necessary square footage might be as much as 22,000. If some of the space could be shared the number would be smaller.

Mr. Maher asked if 20,000 square feet or less would be enough.

Mr. Rauter answered yes.

Mr. Palmer stated he never had heard the Sheriff discuss combining the law enforcement operations with another facility.

Mr. Dwyer noted there had been some discussion about combining the Sheriff's PSAP with the other eight. During the latest discussions, the Sheriff seemed to prefer keeping the PSAP grouped with the department's other operations. During other discussions it was a county component that might have been

tied into the other joint facility with EMA and the coroner. Additionally, there might be an impact in terms of the facility. If the goal is to consolidate PSAPs into specific, hardened facilities, that type of building would have a different price tag. Would the Sheriff prefer a hardened facility over something that is more like an office building? Perhaps the project should be considered as components with the PSAP in one building and the law enforcement building would be separate.

Ms. Traynere asked if the PSAP actually could be on the Army property considering that WESCOM could not be located there.

Mr. Palmer stated the site was within 10 miles of the Dresden and Braidwood Generating Stations as well as petrochemical plants.

Mrs. Dralle asked if it would be advisable for the Sheriff to move the department's facilities to the site of the former arsenal, considering the other environmental factors.

Mr. Maher answered the fact was another consideration. There is a good chance the Sheriff won't move to the site of the former arsenal. Perhaps it would be cost-effective if there was a campus for all the PSAPs – including WESCOM and the one serving the Sheriff's Department – in a safe and secure building.

Mrs. Dralle asked if there would be other property available.

Mr. Maher stated if the proximity to the nuclear power plants and the petrochemical plants was an issue it was perhaps unlikely that the Sheriff's Department would be built on the former Joliet Arsenal property.

Mr. Dwyer stated the Master Plan included the construction of new facilities for the main functions of the Health Department. That would allow the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of parking spaces in their place. Perhaps a small park or a green space could be installed too. The cost for the 123,900 square foot building would range from \$30 to \$35 million.

Ms. Traynere asked if the demolition of the parking lots was factored into the plans.

Mr. Dwyer answered yes. The once-proposed expansion of the housing at the River Valley Justice Center is not part of the Master Plan. Although the building was designed to allow the expansion of agency offices juvenile probation now has a space shortage. There is about 7,000 gross square feet of additional space needed for supportive functions.

Mrs. Dralle asked if the space needs were related to juvenile probation for the entire county or simply for the juvenile detention facility.

Mr. Dwyer answered the entire county.

Mr. Maher asked which of the projects might be funded by a source such as the RTA Sales Tax.

Mr. Dwyer stated the agency offices at the River Valley Justice Center might not need more space until there are more juveniles housed in the facility. Juvenile Probation is essentially out of space, however.

Mrs. Dralle commented there are juvenile probation officers at some of the local high schools. If satellite courtrooms are created, perhaps there could be juvenile probation offices in those locations.

Mr. Dwyer stated the Highway Department's operation sites must be located in particular geographic service areas. The southern site would be added during the expansion. At the Laraway Road site, the Sheriff's Department, the Highway Department and the Forest Preserve District all have facilities at this location. Although the Sheriff might consolidate operations at another location, some services would remain here, including vehicle maintenance and the storage area for seized vehicles. The office space for Animal Control could remain there, and perhaps the coroner's office, the morgue and EMA's field operation could be located there as well.

Mr. Maher indicated one of the issues is Animal Control doesn't have a spot to use at Laraway Road. When the Sheriff leaves Laraway Road, perhaps Animal Control could move to that site.

Mr. Dwyer stated the Northern Satellite might include a traffic court, some civil courtrooms, the related support offices and a probation office.

Mr. Maher commented it might be easier to build a new federal courtroom in the Northern Satellite location than it would be to build one anywhere else.

Mr. Dwyer stated land would have to be acquired first to build a Northern Satellite location. Once the footprint for the building is created, the parcel could be identified.

Mr. Maher stated if the county acquires the First Midwest Bank property in downtown Joliet, nothing can be done immediately at that site. The bank will need two or three years to build another facility before the building can be vacated. The acquisition process could begin now, but it might be as long as seven years before a building could go up there.

Mrs. Dralle asked how much relief would be provided to the existing courthouse if new courtrooms were built at satellite locations.

Mr. Dwyer answered if there was a permanent traffic courtroom in another location it would provide significant relief to the existing building in terms of parking and the lines to enter the courthouse. If several new judges are assigned to Will County, the satellite courtrooms would be a place to put them.

Mrs. Dralle asked if the courthouse had 80,000 visitors monthly, how many of them were coming to traffic court?

Mr. Palmer noted there already are satellite courtrooms for traffic cases throughout the county, including locations in Bolingbrook, Romeoville and Peotone. Some of those court calls might be moved to the satellite locations, particularly because there are security issues at the existing satellite courtrooms.

Mrs. Dralle asked how often the new courtrooms would be used if a dedicated satellite facility were constructed. Would they be in use five days a week for eight hours a day?

Mr. Palmer answered the chief judge would make that decision.

Mr. Maher stated the Northern Satellite building would not simply be used during court proceedings. It would be a Northern Campus Facility for the county. The committee must decide if the concept for a Northern Satellite Facility and an Eastern Satellite Facility should be included in the Master Plan.

Mr. Dwyer stated if the proposed Northern and Eastern Satellite Facilities would be used only once a week the buildings wouldn't be built.

Ms. Smith asked how much it cost the county to rent space for the existing satellite courtrooms.

Mr. Rafac answered it was \$36,000 a year or about \$3,000 a month. The funding is coming from the finance department's budget.

Mr. Dwyer asked if the committee members wanted to remove any of the proposed projects from the list.

Mr. Maher answered the County Office Building's parking structure should be done in conjunction with the city of Joliet.

Mr. Palmer asked if other projects could be added to the list at a later date.

Mr. Maher answered yes.

Ms. Traynere stated land acquisition should be added to the list because it would be a major component of any project.

Mr. Dwyer stated Wight & Company has been working with other counties that have updated their Master Plans several times over a period of years.

Mr. Maher stated Mr. Dwyer should add the information from today's meeting to the documents associated with the Master Plan and to an executive summary.

Mr. Collins distributed to the committee members a large two-sided document summarizing the Master Plan.

Ms. Traynere asked if the Sheriff's buildings and PSAP should be built like a bunker.

Mr. Maher answered yes.

#### **Other Old Business**

None.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Ms. Winfrey, to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.