

August 21, 2010

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING/REAL ESTATE & BUILDINGS
COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee met Thursday, August 19, 2010 at 1:00 p.m., to tour the work space of the Coroner, Public Defender's office, the Benton County Cooperative Extension Service office and Health Department Building.

Committee Members Present: Sandlin, Brown, Winscott
Absent: Lewis, Hubbard

Media: Tom Sissom – Daily Record

JP Winscott stated that he had called this tour so that members of the committee could be informed about the different locations and costs involved with what the county has in terms of buildings and space requirements. He added that in the next few weeks the Health Department is moving to Rogers to the Center For Nonprofits and they will be vacating their space at the Health Department building. He stated then it will be up to the County Judge to decide what the best use of the Health Department Building will be. He added that there may be a possibility of moving offices from leased space into the county-owned space.

Coroner Daniel Oxford stated that he has never really requested a change of location, but pointed out that this building is very deficient. He stated the heating and air conditioning system is inadequate for the metal building and that the indoor temperature recently reached 94 degrees and reported the temperature as 87 degrees at that time. He added that anytime that a body is brought to Coroner's Office that it has to be taken in through the front door and wheeled through the main office space before reaching the work space and that the fire exit cannot be used because there is not a landing outside the door. He stated another deficiency is that the cooler unit used for temporary storage of bodies brought in is not vented to the exterior and that it circulates the air back into the room, and that could raise health questions.

Public Defender Jay Saxton stated that his office could use more space. He noted that the 11 attorneys and the office staff now enter and leave through the same entrance used by clients and the public. He added that moving the office some distance away from the courts buildings in downtown Bentonville would not create significant problems. He stated as far as his office is concerned, the extra space would allow them to function much more efficiently.

Health Director Loy Bailey gave a tour of the Benton County Health Department and the space that would be available after their move to the Center For Nonprofits. The committee members also examined the Benton County Cooperative Extension Service office.

Adjournment

Tour of the buildings ended at 3:45 p.m.