

SPACE COMMITTEE

September 6, 2011 (10:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.)

Present: Commissioner Lyn Widmyer, Commissioner Dale Manuel, County Administrator Tim Boyde

Discussion Items: The committee discussed the impending lease of the property located at 201 N. George Street in Charles Town. The second floor is being leased to accommodate the needs of the Prosecuting Attorney's office. By relocating this office, space will be freed up to; meet the needs of our second Circuit Court Judge, the Magistrates, and will permit growth should additional Magistrates be authorized. This action forestalls the immediate need to construct a Judicial Complex by as much as 5-8 years if not longer. The idea of a lease/purchase option remains a viable consideration.

The county now has at least two options to consider for both the short and long term. The first option would be to construct the Judicial Center in the immediate future. To do so would require an assessment of the amount of space needed for the facility, sufficient space to erect the building, possible relocation (on a temporary basis) of some county departments, securing a bond, and potential purchase of additional structures.

Option two could include the purchase of the property at 201 N. George Street. This purchase would allow for projected growth within the county system, the relocation of specific county offices, free up potential construction sites, and negate the need for a larger Judicial Center. The building process could begin much sooner and achieve substantial savings to the county (and taxpayers).

It was suggested that the Commission hold a roundtable discussion on these options and include several municipalities, businesses, and for-profit entities that recently expanded. The roundtable discussion would be followed by a public hearing to solicit community input for the next steps. This is projected to occur in early November.

The current balance in the Capital Outlay Account stands at \$6,183,733.00 before the first fund transfer (~\$337,500.00 on a quarterly basis) from the 2011 "scrape". This total does not include the funds previously dedicated to the purchase of the Shepherdstown Battlefield. Those funds total \$102,820.36 and will require 5-0 vote to be re-allocated.