

FAQ about the new Health and Human Services Building

Q. What departments will be in the new building?

A. Social Services, Health Department, UW Extension, Commission on Aging, SUN Program and Veterans Services.

Q. Why such a large building?

A. The Long Range Plan called for a building to meet the county's needs for the next 30 years. The building is pretty much filled, other than some unfinished office space in departments and some storage space that can be made into offices.

Q. Why are contractors non-county businesses?

A. The County cannot give special treatment to any person or business. We are required by Law to select the lowest most qualified bidder. We cannot force anyone to bid. Every county business has an equal opportunity to bid on any County project.

Q. Why was this project rushed through?

A. This project goes back almost 6 years. Long Range Planning took almost 3 years and the Building Committee took 2 ½ years. The project took over 40 meetings and over 100 hours to plan. The building design was approved by the full County Board 18 to 3 in May 2008. It went to bid and the bids were opened in September 2008. It was voted down in October 2008. The project was to be brought to the full board in 6 months for a decision. It was again delayed for another 6 months. That brought the Board to August, when the Board decided to re-bid the building. The bids were opened in early October. The County Board voted at the October 20 board meeting to go ahead with the building.
All committee and board meetings were posted and advertised as required by law.
It has taken almost 6 years

Q. Why is the building so fancy?

A. The building was designed to be efficient, practical, functional and fit the neighborhood. There were numerous meetings held with the neighbors and architects to discuss the various designs. This is what evolved from those meetings, a building that fits the neighborhood and above criteria. It is not fancy.

Q. When will it be on the tax rolls and what is the difference between 10 and 15 years?

A. It will appear on the 2011 tax rolls.
15 years would cost somewhere between 750,000.00 and 1,000,000.00 more. It would depend on the interest rate and the rate is normally higher on longer terms.

Q. Why so many meetings rooms and who can use them?

A. The Long Range Planning Comm. was told there was a shortage of meeting space, by a variety of groups. They can be used by county departments, county committees and community groups, as they are now. Security issues at the Courthouse were a concern for the County. With evening meetings at the Courthouse, we could not secure the Courthouse from the meeting rooms within the Courthouse. When being utilized at night,

the entire Courthouse was unlocked. The design of the new building allowed us to segregate the meeting rooms, keeping the rest of the building secure. All evening meetings would be held at the new building eliminating the night security issue at the Courthouse.

Q. Why this lot and what about the storm water issue?

A. This lot was purchased many years ago for this purpose. It was chosen because of its accessibility to the Courthouse, thus giving us better efficiency. Keeping the two within walking distance allows for greater efficiency. It also keeps county services closer for customers and more convenient.

The storm water issue is still being addressed. We don't want a pond. We will continue to work with the City of Dodgeville on this issue.

Q. Why not wait 2-5 years?

A. The county is in dire need of space. Social Services are in an outdated building. The Health Dept. is in rented space and has been moved numerous times. We are out of room in the Courthouse. We have outgrown the addition built in 1996.

It will cost more money. And somewhere in the not distant future, we will have to do something with the jail. We are just spreading the expense out as planned for in the County's Long Range Plan.

Q. Why was a contract signed in October, 2009?

A. There was no contract signed in October, 2009. The County signed a contract with a Construction Manager, in 2007 and has been in force since then. The Construction Manager is in charge of everything from bid letting to completion. In accepting the bids we agreed to move forward with the project. Therefore, we did not have to sign a new contract in October, 2009.