

County to build on bowling alley property

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

After several months of weighing how to proceed with the newly acquired property east of the courthouse, Phillips County commissioners announced the county will demolish the old structure and erect a new parking facility in the 200 block of South Campbell Avenue.

When the property was purchased, the county had two primary goals. They were to provide offsite, user-friendly office space for overflow records storage and to provide covered parking for county fleet vehicles.

The board originally looked into remodeling the bowling alley facility to meet those goals. As they put together cost estimates for remodeling the bowling alley building, they also decided to get estimates on a new parking building much like the open stall parking facility north of the Grainland office in Holyoke.

A new building would cost more than remodeling, but the board noted distinct advantages in erecting a new building rather than trying to make the old one work. The existing building will restrict large-vehicle parking because of the eight-foot ceiling height. After spending for remodeling, the county would still have an old building, which could have a variety of maintenance issues in the future.

In the final analysis, the board has decided to demolish the bowling alley building, erect a new parking facility on the north side of the property and take the south two bays of the garage on the courthouse square for record storage. Those two bays are currently used by the sheriff's office.

County forces will be working on the demolition project in the near future. They will also prepare the site for a new building.

The new structure is projected to have eight open-fronted parking spaces, three enclosed stalls for the sheriff's office and one stall for maintenance storage. One of the enclosed stalls for the sheriff's office will be able to house the Mobile Command Vehicle.

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The southern portion of the property will be leveled and graveled, to be used for overflow parking when needed for court days.

The county will be soliciting proposals on the new parking structure and the remodel required for record storage.

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