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URGING ADDITION TO COURT HOUSE

ESTIMATE COST AT \$300,000

Present Court House Congestion
Hampering Work of Officials
of County; More Room
Badly Needed

Because of lack of space serious congestion is hampering county officials in their work in the court house at Waukegan, and the plan to erect a \$300,000 addition to the building to be submitted to the voters of the county November 7, is herewith shown to be a necessary move.

Lake County is now paying rent for offices for the state's attorney, county superintendent of schools, board of review and during part of the year for the extra forces of clerks used in extending taxes in the county clerk's office.

In addition to the expense for rent there is a large amount of time lost in having a part of the books in the court house and a part scattered in outside offices, even now, with the extra offices rented, the offices in the court house are so crowded that the work is done at a great disadvantage and waste of time.

The vault in the county clerk's office is so filled with files and records it is necessary to pile them up on the tables, if any one wishes to examine any of them they must be carried into the supervisor's room or wherever they can find a space around the building to lay them down. The same condition exists in the county treasurer's office and the public is greatly delayed in payment of taxes and transacting other business on account of lack of space for the clerks to work.

Congestion in Offices

In the circuit clerk's and recorder's office, where all the records of real estate are kept, the condition is still worse. There are about 800 volumes of books and records and shelves for about 600, which makes it necessary to pile about 200 books on the floor, and whenever one is needed it is sure to be near the bottom of the pile. If this condition continues the books will be worn out with handling, so it will be necessary to have many of the books rebound within the next few years, at an expense of from eight to ten thousand dollars.

The recorder now has eleven clerks, there are always six and frequently eight abstractors at work in his offices making eighteen or twenty people working in two rooms and vault, besides attorneys and others examining records so that they all work at a great disadvantage being in each other's way. This office will be divided in 1924, thus making it necessary, if no addition is made to the court house, to rent some large building and at the county's expense build a vault to accommodate one of these offices and preserve the records.

Many Clerks Needed

The county clerk's office will be divided on the first Monday of December, 1922, and the probate judge and county judge will be obliged to use one room for holding court and the probate clerk will be obliged to have his office with some of the other offices.

Will Double Capacity

The proposed addition will more than double its capacity and make ample room for all of the offices for at least the next twenty-five years. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) extended over twenty years will amount to only \$15,000 per year which with the large valuation of the county will not be noticed by any tax payer. The county has been levying \$20,000 per year for the last few years for building fund for various purposes, so that the tax will not be as much as it has been except for the item of interest, which will not amount to as much as the rent now being paid.

It is proposed under the tentative plans submitted to the county board of supervisors by Architect Herbert P. Beers of Highland Park, that in the proposed addition which will be built on the west of the present court house, that the sub-basement will include coal and boiler rooms.

Proposed Improvements

The first or ground floor will include an apartment for the janitor.

The second or main floor will contain county treasurer's and county clerk's offices and record vaults.

The third floor will contain state attorney's office, county court room, judge's chambers, jury room, board of supervisors' room with necessary committee rooms, which may also be used as jury rooms, when necessary.

The fourth floor will contain probate court room, probate clerk's office, jury rooms, jury dormitories and law library.

Elevator service, toilets, etc., on each floor.

Brick and Stone

The proposed addition will be of brick and stone construction, fireproof throughout and will conform to the style of architecture of the present building.

The building of this addition will in no wise interfere with the working conditions in the present building, as the only change contemplated in the old building is the placing of the elevator and staircase in the southwest corner now occupied as the county judge's chamber.

The architect has found after making a thorough investigation, that the present building is in excellent condition.

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