



New Franklin County Courthouse Update

April 16, 2019 – Franklin County Board Meeting

The Franklin County Board met on April 16, 2019 and took the following action regarding construction of a new courthouse.

Passed a resolution waiving the competition requirements of the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act for the specific purposes of the design of renovations to the Campbell Building and temporary court facilities and to conduct a professional land survey property. By passing this resolution waiving the competition requirements the county board has the ability and authority to work with businesses and contractors that they have had a professional relationship in the past and to keep work in Franklin County.

The board also passed an ordinance increasing Franklin County's portion of the Local Sales Tax by 1% (one percent) for a period not to exceed 15 years for specific public facilities purpose, the construction of a new courthouse and the renovation of the Campbell Building.

The board hired Forest Langenfeld to underwrite the structure and place the debt certificates to be used in the construction of the new courthouse and renovation of the Campbell Building and to coordinate the document preparation with an accredited legal counsel and to use Southern Illinois Bank, of West Frankfort, as the lead bank. Langenfeld told the board that while Southern Illinois Bank will serve as the lead bank the bonds will be offered to all Franklin County banks.

The board entered into an agreement with Kelly Architectural and Consulting, LLC, located in Sesser, IL, to draw up plans for renovation of the Campbell Building

The board entered into an agreement with Shawnee Professional Services, of Benton, to survey the county-owned property on the Benton Public Square to determine the exact size of the parcel of land where the new courthouse will be constructed.

The board tabled a resolution to authorize short-term financing to be used for the initial expenses on the construction of the new courthouse and renovation of the Campbell Building. Sales tax revenue from the 1% increase will not be available until September or October. Jim Renik, president of Southern Illinois Bank, was at the meeting and told board members that establishing short-term financing would be a simple matter to complete when the county is ready.

In an effort to stay on top of the ongoing work, construction and decisions that will need to be made, the board is exploring the idea of adding an additional monthly meeting.