



The Chairman's Corner

by

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11 WARREN STREET – PART 3 OF 3

10/1/24

When the Columbia County Board of Supervisors decided to proceed with the purchase of 11 Warren Street, Hudson, for use as county office and storage space, I said this: This is a positive step for Columbia County and I'm excited about this opportunity -- 11 Warren Street solves a multitude of issues. At the same time, I noted that with the high cost of commercial construction, the sum required to put up a structure that would solve the needs under consideration would make that option virtually prohibitive. I continue to stand with those words.

The building at 11 Warren Street, Hudson, was constructed in 1985 and designed as a multi-tenant retail space. Over time, the site housed a business office and four spaces dedicated for educational purposes, featuring multiple entrances. The overall condition of the building is considered to be good.

This is the space Columbia County purchased for a price of \$3,350,000. It sits on .94 of one acre and is zoned Central Commercial, for professional, governmental, or business use. It offers 18,622-square-feet, all on one level, with 30 onsite parking spots.

I've noted that the county departments anticipated to move into 11 Warren Street are the Board of Elections, currently located in the county building at 401 State Street, and Probation Department, the Public Defender's Office, and the 911 backup call center, all of which call 610 State Street home.

To clear up a misconception that seems to have cropped up, it's not simply a matter of storage for the voting machines under the purview of the county Board of Elections. However, the board has been in need of a location to have the machines available for programming much of the year. Further, there are times we can expect to have as many as four elections per year, each with multiple days of voting that occupy the BOE's staff time and space needs.

As Commissioner of Public Works Ray Jurkowski pointed out in a June presentation to the Space Utilization Committee, at 11 Warren Street there is additional space available for an additional smaller department or departments to be relocated. Given the space available, these departments could include one or more of the following: Conflict Defender & 18B Coordinator, Stop DWI Coordinator, the Planning Department, Weights and Measures, Tourism, and the Coroner's Office.

Based on the proposed use of the facility, and the other departments that are proposed to occupy the building, it is Commissioner Jurkowski's recommendation that relocating the Conflict Defender & 18B Coordinator, as well as the Stop DWI coordinator, be considered. Relocating the Conflict Defender & 18B Coordinator to 11 Warren would allow the Civil Service department reacquire their old training room/testing space.

It is my hope that I have answered some of the questions surrounding the county's purchase of 11 Warren Street. As progress is made on this property, I'll be back with updates.