



Pend Oreille County

Board of Commissioners

Karen Skoog
District #1

Mike Manus
District #2

Stephen Kiss
District # 3

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April 4, 2017

Capital Budget Committee
Washington State House of Representatives
Chair, Representative Tharinger

RE: Historic County Courthouse Grant Program

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the Board of Commissioners of Pend Oreille County, request your support of the funding for the Historic County Courthouse Grant Program.

For the 2017-2019 Biennium, the Courthouse Steering Committee recommended nearly \$4 million to fund 16 courthouse projects statewide. However, the Governor's proposed Capital Budget is under \$2 million to fund the top 5 projects. The Senate Capital Budget has allocated an amount of funding to cover only the top 3 projects.

Pend Oreille County's project ranked number 4 in Washington State. This funding will primarily be used to replace the courthouse elevator which is practical and necessary to provide public safety and access to county offices – Assessor, Treasurer, Auditor and Commissioners, and, to comply with the ADA requirement. Not only is this necessary, but also urgent as the elevator has been out of order on several occasions making it necessary for representatives of the inaccessible county offices to meet with constituents at another courthouse location. This project will also provide maintenance and restoration such as exterior brick sealing. Funding this project will be difficult in our future budgets.

We encourage your support of full funding of this program as recommended by the committee.

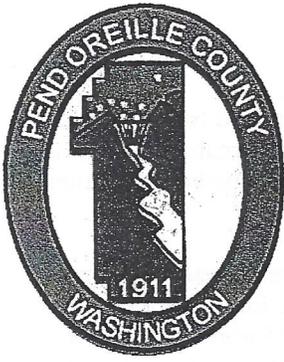
Sincerely,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Karen Skoog, Chair

Stephen Kiss, Vice-Chair

Mike Manus, Member



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June 16, 2016

Chris Moore
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
1204 Minor Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Grant opportunity support letter

Mr. Moore,

The Board of County Commissioners supports Public Works in their pursuit of grant funding available for the fiscal year 2017 & 2018. The Board has recently declared an emergency replacement of the HVAC system. We understand that this investment may serve as our match. If this is the case, the County would be eligible for up to \$300,000.00 dollars for projects that would preserve the historic characteristics of our Courthouse without additional matching dollars.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation recognized and listed the Pend Oreille County Courthouse on the Washington Heritage Register of Historic Places on October 24, 2013.

In addition, Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the United States Department of the Interior recognized and entered Pend Oreille County Courthouse in the National Register of Historic Places on January 24, 2014.

It is our duty to preserve the significance of our historic building and protect the people's investment.

The elevator serving the ADA community and employees in the building is in need of replacement. The elevator is over 25 years old and has met its life expectancy. The elevator parts are obsolete. The replacement of the elevator is on the County's Capital Projects list for replacement. County funding is not available for replacement.

The degradation of our defining historic characteristics is visible and becoming more obvious. The foyer area is losing its historic character. The interior of the stairway is flanked by porcelain subway tiles with wood trim. The tiles are worn and waxing or maintaining them makes no difference. The tiles are cracked and require replacement. The wood trim has lost its color due to wear. The wood trim needs to be refurbished or replaced. The wood entry doors are not able to be adequately sealed. The elements of the weather have taken its toll.

The Pend Oreille County Courthouse is a two-story, rectangular, flat-roof building set on a partially-raised basement foundation. The building exhibits a buff brick exterior and a wide galvanized iron cornice with a small brick parapet extending above. Dentils, modillions, and recessed panels also of galvanized iron decorate the cornice.

Brick Pilasters with terra cotta capitals are found on all elevations separating slightly recessed bays. Terra cotta sills runs below the bands of windows on the main and second levels. All of the referenced materials are noted on the original architectural drawings for the building. The terra-cotta used to supplement the brick features is showing signs of moss buildup.

The effect of our project would significantly increase the life expectancy of the architectural design of our Historic building. It is Pend Oreille County's intent to preserve and protect the structure for another hundred years and beyond. The main entry to the building is centered on the facade elevation. It features a concrete stairway from the main walkway up to the doors on the raised main level. The stairs feature non-historic metal railings, while the interior of the stairway is flanked by porcelain subway tiles with wood trim.

The main entry doors are full-light, wooden, double doors with a recessed wood panel at the bottom of each door. The doors are flanked by the original sidelights and feature a large, original, four-light transom above. The main entry stairway is ornamented by a galvanized iron, segmental arch decorated with a small swag and the words "COURT HOUSE." The building's cornerstone, containing a time capsule, was installed August 20, 1915 at the east end of the facade elevation just above the water table. It was removed in 2011 to reveal the time capsule's contents during the county's centennial year, and has been replaced.

Respectfully,

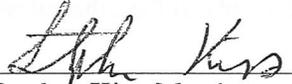
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PEND OREILLE COUNTY



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