

HOW HAVE TIMES CHANGED?

1950's

2010

- ❖ Portage County home to 35,000 people
- ❖ 50% lived in Towns, 50% lived in villages and Stevens Point
- ❖ 3,000 acres developed in the County's central "urban area"
- ❖ Stevens Point population 17,000
- ❖ Plover not even a village yet
- ❖ 2 dorms on UWSP campus
- ❖ World Wide Web was SPUTNIK, circling in "outer space"
- ❖ New Courthouse, built with 2 courtrooms for 1.3 Judges (the 2nd Judge split duties between 3 different Counties)
- ❖ Portage County home to 70,000 people
- ❖ 60%+ live in villages and Stevens Point
- ❖ Over 10,000 acres developed in the County's central "urban area"
- ❖ Stevens Point population 26,000
- ❖ Village of Plover population 12,000
- ❖ UWSP: ~9,000 students, 13 dorms
- ❖ Telecom/video arraignment is vital to daily court operations
- ❖ Same Courthouse, with 3 full-time Judges and a Family Court Commissioner, using two 50-year old courtrooms, a converted County Board room, and a conference room. The current caseload suggests a 4th full-time Judge may need to be added within the next several years

WHY BUILD A NEW COURTHOUSE?

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Present Courthouse does not meet current State Supreme Court Standards regarding floor plan and circulation (SCR 70.39(4)), which recommend separation of:

Public areas; Judge and court staff areas; Prisoner areas

Current Courthouse has multiple entrances, and no separation of these areas.

Current courtroom layouts also have security and circulation issues.

Remodeling the current Courthouse to achieve these improvements is not cost-effective.

These are continuing safety concerns.

SPACE AND EFFICIENCY

New building would attach to the Annex Building, and use existing County office space. Vacated space in existing Courthouse would be re-used by existing County Departments. Important functions, including Jury Assembly and record storage, will become more efficient.

Technology upgrades would meet today's Court needs and improve court efficiency.

PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING

No time like the present: borrowing and labor costs are at or near historic lows.

Building expense as envisioned could be paid with reserves and bonding, which would not increase the tax levy.

Envisioned project would reuse existing buildings.