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## **Greene County to move Public Administrator, Youth Academy out of aging building**

Greene County Commissioners are relocating several offices in an effort to lower costs and liability due to the aging and problematic Hogan Building, located directly across from the County Historic Courthouse at the corner of Central and Boonville.

In 1995, the Health Department deemed the Hogan Building unsafe for employees and the public. Since then the County has paid large sums to bring the building to code, mitigate the moisture and mold issues and make it ADA accessible.

Forecasting rising maintenance costs and potentially dangerous roof repairs, the Commission considered remodeling the Hogan Building — which houses the Public Administrator’s Office and day treatment center for youths, the Greene County Youth Academy. They discovered that it would cost approximately \$615,000 to provide suitable office space.

“We weren’t prepared to put that amount of money into this building we knew had major issues, but we also knew we needed to provide a better space for our employees and their clients — in some cases those include young kids and people with disabilities,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin.

To facilitate the relocation, the County has entered into a six-year lease with CoxHealth for the 10th floor of Cox Tower for \$100,178 annually, which includes utilities, maintenance and cleaning costs.

The ongoing expense of rent will largely be offset by savings on costs of utilities, building maintenance, custodial services and insurance currently spent on the Hogan Building.

The Youth Academy will be relocated to the Administration Building, the current home of the Commission and several of its departments. While those Commission offices, along with the Public Administrator will be moved to the 10th floor of the Cox Tower.

In the Administration Building, the Juvenile Office and the youths they serve will have secure evening access to the facility and space for classrooms, outreach programs and support services, all with the intention to refer fewer youth to the juvenile justice system and prevent them from entering in the adult system and jail.

At Cox Tower, Public Administrator’s clients will be better served due to the proximity to other services they use, including Cox North hospital, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and a bus stop. Cox Tower also offers a level of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility not achieved in the Hogan Building.

Renovations to Cox’s 10th floor are expected to be minimal. Bids for the work are currently being reviewed. Earliest move-in date will be October 2017.

Once vacated, the Hogan Building will be demolished and used for parking while the Commission considers the space for a jail expansion.

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