

County Update – February 14, 2018

Construction has started on the Courthouse Remodel project! In 2015 a review was done to determine what work needed be done to maintain our buildings. In 2016 the Board approved moving forward with planning for work on the buildings, and in 2017 they approved bonds and contracts for this work to move forward. The project consists of replacing heating and cooling systems (HVAC), electrical, lighting, and windows as well as a variety of exterior and interior updates.

The bulk of the project is related to replacing the HVAC system and electrical system, which is over 65% of the total cost. The mechanical systems will be updated to install a redundant system for heating and cooling (currently there is one very old boiler and no back-up heat) that will be more efficient and effective. To replace this single boiler system a two boiler system will be installed to provide supplemental heat and the ability to heat and cool simultaneously as needed. This involves removing and replacing all the radiator units and the ceilings to get to the duct work and associated units. Due to the work being done, staff will be moved around, and as we go thru the project, areas of the buildings will have limited access.

The existing electric services and panelboards will be replaced throughout with new ones. Wiring, notification devices, and the fire alarm system will also be updated. The project will also change the lighting to new LED lights with motion sensors and night emergency lighting throughout the building to meet current energy code. There will also be new data and telecom lines throughout the buildings to keep up with changing technology requirements.

The Courthouse windows are scheduled to be replaced as they are broken in places, leaking in others, and to bring them closer to the historical looking windows that were replaced in the 1970's. For the exterior of the Courthouse, the front entry roof will be repaired as this leaks and plaster is falling off. The exterior façade tuck-pointing will be done to keep up the outside of the building and deal with leaks in the 100-year-old structure.

There will be some re-configuring of space layouts as to more efficiently utilize spaces as offices, to improve security, and to allow for integration of departments. To create effective space to accommodate work needs, several areas will be updated for additional office space and to create customer service counters as well as waiting areas. For example, the changes to the lower level Courthouse create space to accommodate elections and increasing absentee voting at the Courthouse. In the annex, additional office spaces are being created, an existing bathroom is being updated, and ceilings and lighting fixtures are being added to previous storage areas for office spaces and new offices will also be created on the second floor.

Due to the HVAC and electrical work, as well as some wall, piping and duct work changes, there will be plaster repair, paint and flooring touch-up needed throughout the buildings as old radiator heating units, ceiling units, and old wiring is removed. Doors will be rekeyed and updated with a master key schedule and electronic access to also improve security and access.

As we proceed thru this project, we are posting updates on our Sibley County (Government Organization) Facebook page, and on our website at www.co.sibley.mn.us.