LOCAL HISTORIAN DONATES LAND FOR ARCHIVES

Lindsay McReynolds Herald-Citizen Staff



Putnam County Executive Kim Blaylock looks over a number of old county records being stored in the upstairs room of the Putnam County Courthouse. Old county records currently being stored in various county buildings could be stored together in a proposed county archives and veterans hall. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

PUTNAM COUNTY -- Putnam County Historian Maurine Ensor Patton loves keeping track of all kinds of historical records from Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland region.

Her library inside her Putnam County home proves it with numerous records including census books, marriage records and death records, and those searching for information about their relatives often call on Patton's collection for answers.

So it's no surprise that the 91-year-old historian wonders what will happen to her collection after she passes away.

Thinking of the importance of preserving the records she already has as well as other historic records likely scattered throughout county buildings, Patton recently agreed to donate the land beside her house on West Broad Street to Putnam County for the purpose of constructing a county archives and a veterans' hall.

Jackson County archivist Glenn Jones, who takes care of the archives and veterans' hall in Jackson County, said having an archives helps protect permanent records forever and makes them accessible to the public.

Jones said a \$2 fee set up by the state legislature that's now in place at the Putnam County Clerk's office was designed to maintain public records and to make them accessible to the public.

In addition to county records, an archives could also contain old photos and county maps.

And Putnam County already has a public records commission that was set up last August shortly after the \$2 fee was approved by the county commission.

The public records commission would be in charge of all public records, and presumably a county archivist would need to be hired to maintain and preserve public records and be able to show them to the public.

"Currently, people come in to look at records, but officials don't have time to watch it," Putnam County Executive Kim Blaylock said. "That makes records vulnerable. If we had an archives, it would be supervised."

Jones said the county archivist would "digitalize" records by taking photos of them, so the public wouldn't be handling the aging original documents.

Blaylock said she will soon be asking the Putnam County Commission to fund the hiring of a county

archivist as well as some equipment, and she is hoping that money can be raised through the efforts of history enthusiasts to construct a building on the property Patton has agreed to donate to the county.

Jones said, "This is a great thing for the history of the county. The county and all the citizens own this, and that's why everyone wants to help out."

Jones added that very few counties don't already have an archives.

A proposed veterans' hall would also be in the same building with the Putnam County archives and would serve to honor all veterans from Putnam County.

Blaylock said, "I think if Jackson County has been able to accomplish this strictly with donations, I see no reason why Putnam County can't do the same."

Jones said, "I can't wait to see it happen. Maurine wants a beautiful building that will honor the whole county."

For more information or to find out how you can support the construction of a county archives and veterans' hall, call Putnam County Executive Kim Blaylock at (931) 526-2161.

Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, February 10, 2008

ARCHIVES RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Lindsay McReynolds Herald-Citizen Staff

PUTNAM COUNTY -- The establishment of a Putnam County archives passed its first test Monday night when commissioners on the fiscal review committee agreed to establish an archives as well as enact a records management fee for various county offices.

Putnam County Executive Kim Blaylock told commissioners last night that a \$2 fee set up by the state legislature now in place at the county clerk's office was designed to take care of records and that Putnam County is required to have a public records commission.

Blaylock said she believes other county offices can collect the fee for various documents filed, which will assist Putnam County in constructing a building for the archives and paying an archivist to maintain it.

"Preserving our records, a lot of this is our history," Blaylock said. "We're not doing a good job of it now. They're strewn here, everywhere."

Putnam County Historian Maurine Patton has agreed to donate land beside her house on West Broad Street to Putnam County for the purpose of constructing a county archives and a veterans' hall.

Ninety-one-year-old Patton spoke up Monday night and said that she would also like to donate her home and lot to the county after she passes away.

Patton has an extensive library inside her Putnam County home with numerous records including census books, marriage records and death records, and those searching for information about their relatives often call on Patton's collection for answers.

Having an archives would help Putnam County preserve permanent records and make them accessible to the public, proponents have said. An archives could also contain old photos and county maps.

Commissioners Monday night agreed to Blaylock's proposal to go ahead and hire a county archivist

beginning April 1. That archivist is expected to be paid about \$24,000 annually.

The planning committee also recommends pursuing the records management fee for various Putnam offices.

The 24-member Putnam County Commission will consider the establishment of a county archives on Monday, March 17, when it meets at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Putnam Courthouse.

Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

*See Maurine Patton: History, Putnam Co., TN at: http://www.ajlambert.com

PRESERVING HISTORIC RECORDS A CONCERN

Heather Mullinix Herald-Citizen Staff

Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea Putnam County Archivist Glenn Jones goes through boxes of loose records currently stored in the attic of the Putnam County Courthouse.



PUTNAM COUNTY -- Free help could be available to help preserve, catalogue and record historic county records. But there is concern among some county offices some confidential records could be compromised in the process.

Questions revolve around who would be responsible for those records once they are turned over to Putnam County Archivist Glenn Jones and volunteers for preservation. It is possible some of the records, which include chancery and general sessions

court records dating back to Putnam County's formation in 1854, could include juvenile records, health records or adoption records.

Wayne Moore, Tennessee state archivist, told the Putnam County Public Records Commission Thursday, "Archives are generally concerned with the older, historical records. Typically archives do not need the current, working records of a county office officials need close at hand."

The Tennessee State Library and Archives works with the Genealogical Society of Utah, which uses volunteers to work with county archivists to treat and preserve old records. They also work on a searchable index of the records to assist the public in searching for records. The state archives will also microfilm the records for the county, free of charge.

A pair of volunteers are completing work in Cannon County and will be ready to begin working with Putnam County soon. Jones was charged with developing protocols to ensure the security and safety of the records, as well as preserving confidentiality of sensitive records. The public records commission will meet again Dec. 2 at noon to review the protocols and determine if the volunteers will be able to assist Jones with records preservation. The meeting will be held in County Executive Kim Blaylock's conference room at the Putnam County Courthouse.

Blaylock said, "I don't want to lose the opportunity for them to come here."

The public records commission, which is charged with the care of a county's public record files, can determine how far back the archivist and volunteers will begin the work.

Public officials, such as the county clerk or county court clerk, are bonded and have protection should their be a suit brought regarding mishandling of records.

"That includes all records," Jeff Jones, county attorney said. "How do we reconcile the responsibility the clerks have to maintain these records with letting them go away from their control?"

Moore said the records commission was duly authorized to say the records of the county prior to a certain date were to go to the archives. Jones said he is security conscience, taking steps to ensure records are kept safe and those working with the records are supervised.

"There's no reason the archives can't be just as safe then the situation the records are currently kept," Moore said. "It is common practice for a county to designate an archivist as the legal custodian of the records."

Blaylock said, "It's my understanding, once the records are accepted by the public records commission, the official is no longer liable for them. The public records commission and archivist assume the liability and responsibility for those records."

Records preservation includes caring for the old paper to stop deterioration of the original record. Another step is to create a format that makes the historic records for use by the public.

"It's just a good idea for the citizens to see the record of their transactions with the government," Moore said. "In most counties, those court records form the core of the historical record that people are interested in, whether it's genealogy or local history. Those records are very rich in history."

Docket numbers were of concern to Judge Nolan Goolsby, who did not want the number removed from the file. The number corresponds to entries in a ledger and is part of the official court record. Goolsby was concerned how records would be organized if not by docket number.

Jones said if there was a docket number, it would be used.

But one problem often found is there are loose papers that may not have a docket number, or the number was written in pencil and has faded to the point it cannot be read. In those instances, Jones proposes organizing the records by name and creating a card catalogue system similar to libraries that would record the location of the file and be searchable by all names involved in the record. The database would also include any docket number associated with a file, as well.

Seventy counties in the state have set up archiving programs to preserve historic records.

The state has passed legislation allowing counties to collect a records management fee, currently being collected on records issued by Putnam County Clerk Wayne Nabors office.

The legislation also established guidelines for Public Records Commissions, which was formed in 2007 in Putnam County. Jones was hired as the county archivist in April.

Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Wednesday, Nov 26, 2008

PROCESS SET ON OLD COUNTY RECORDS

Heather Mullinix Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN **PUTNAM COUNTY** -- Putnam County's court records will begin being preserved following action of the Public Records Commission Tuesday. The commission approved a set of procedures on how records will be handled by the county archivist and set the year to begin preserving records at 1940 and before.

With a year established to begin archiving records, Putnam County Archivist Glenn Jones is ready to take record transfers from county offices. He then becomes responsible for the security and safety of those records.

Jones proposed scheduling record transfers with individual clerks at times convenient for their offices and, when possible, providing an inventory of the records transferred.

"Sometimes, you may not know what you are getting," Jones said. "Then we would have to return something if we weren't supposed to have it."

Jones, as archivist, would be present for and conduct all record transfers. The records would then be placed in a secure room. Records from one court would be kept together, separate from other courts. Starting with the oldest record, each original record would be cleaned, unfolded and placed in a new acid-free folder for preservation. The folder would be labeled with the plaintiffs and defendants, docket number, dates and court name and recognize the record is in the care of the Putnam County Archives.

Each record would be placed in a locked file cabinet, preserving the original order. A complete indexing of each file would also be completed as each record was placed in the cabinet.

If a confidential record were to be found, such as juvenile records less than 70 years old or health or adoption records, those would be placed in a locked box and then returned to the original clerk. Records newer than 1940 would also be returned to the original clerk.

County Attorney Jeff Jones recommended Jones add a procedure calling for an inventory of all records returned to the clerks' offices, as well.

Jones is now ready to begin the daunting task of recording and preserving all of the county's vital records, which includes court records and property records. Once cleaned and preserved, the state will microfilm the original records, which would provide a copy easily accessible by the public.

There are many records in various county offices, Jones said. He does not want to take possession of all those records at one time, though.

"It's going to take forever," Jones said. "Each piece of paper has got to be read to see what it is and placed in a file folder."

Because of the time involved in preserving the records, Jones said he'd prefer to take a small amount of records at a time.

"They would be safer if we left them where they are, except the ones we are actually processing," Jones said.

It will be at least a month before the volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah could begin working with the county, Jones said. The volunteers have assisted several counties in the state with records preservation. They also work with the state archives.

The Public Records Commission set its next meeting for noon Feb. 3 at County Executive Kim Blaylock's office.

Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, Dec 04, 2008

PATTON HAD PASSION FOR PUTNAM HISTORY

Heather Mullinix

Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN Saturday, Mar 07, 2009

PUTNAM COUNTY -- When Putnam County Historian Maurine Patton passed away in February, she left instructions her life's work would go to the care of the Putnam County Archives. Now, those files of family histories for people in Putnam County, as well as White and Overton counties, will be processed to be available to the public.

"She loved genealogy," said Glenn Jones, county archivist. "There's a lot of good material in there."

Patton left her historical records, including numerous family genealogies, census books, cemetery records and African-American burial records for the area as well as lists of Civil War soldiers from Putnam County.

"We're hoping to get those things into a digital format so the public can access that information. There are thousands of family charts taken from obituaries over the last 40 years," Jones said.

"There's so much there we still need to look through."

Patton was a champion of preserving local history. She was first appointed county historian in 2004. Genealogy and necrology were among her hobbies.

In February 2008, Patton approached the Putnam County Commission about the need for a county archives and veterans hall to preserve historic records often stored in less than ideal conditions and scattered among county offices. The commission agreed and in March of last year, hired Jones to lead preservation efforts. The archives was funded through a \$2 fee on public records.

But with a slim budget, Patton and her cousin Mable Lane agreed to help get the archives going in style. The two donated \$4,000 which was used to purchase the solid cherry desk now sitting in the archives office inside the agricultural building on Walnut Avenue.

"It was a generous contribution that set the standard for other contributions that followed," Jones said.

Since that time, Jones has been working to begin archiving historic county records and established the Putnam County Veterans Hall, which honors service men and women with Putnam County ties.

Jones said Patton also bequeathed her home and land to the archives for use as a museum or storage space. He said the county commission will have to decide how to use the property. If it is not used for those purposes, it would return to the family.

*See Maurine Ensor Patton story and obt. in the History files of Putnam Co., TN at: http://www.ajlambert.com

COUNTY OFFICIALS LOBBYING FOR MORE OFFICE SPACE

<u>Heather Mullinix</u> Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN



becoming available in the next few months.

Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea Putnam County Clerk Wayne Nabors talks with Pam Ryherd and Randy Reece at the clerk's office at Washington Avenue and Freeze Street. The office will be relocating to the current health department building following completion of a new health department facility on South Willow Avenue this summer.

PUTNAM COUNTY -- The land and facilities committee of the Putnam County Commission wants to know which county offices are in need of more space before deciding which offices should be moved to spaces

But, at least one member thinks the committee should wait to make any decisions until after a solution is found for overcrowding at the Justice Center.

"Until we do something on a jail solution, we may be getting the cart before the horse," said Bob Duncan, 2nd District commissioner. "There will be additional offices needed for the Sheriff's Department. Until we determine a jail solution, it's not in the best interest of the commission to move offices until we can determine a package solution."

The possibility of moving county offices is coming with the construction of two new county buildings. Those facilities on South Willow Avenue will house the county's emergency medical services, fire department, emergency management agency, E-911 center and the county's information technology department. The county health department will also relocate to a new facility at the same location, along with the election commission office.

That construction project includes renovating the old health department building for use by the county clerk and the county archives. The county archives is currently housed in the agriculture building on Walnut Avenue, and is quickly outgrowing the space available.

County Executive Kim Blaylock said there was a possibility a district soil conservation office could be located in the space currently in use by the archives.

But no decision has been made how the current county clerk's office would be best used. Earlier in the month, Trustee Gail Glover asked the commission to consider moving her office from the court house to the clerk's office. The planning committee delayed action, asking the land and facilities committee to develop a plan for moving county offices to best utilize space available.

The committee completed a survey of county office needs in 2004, which included how much space each department had for offices, land available, parking and the number of visitors seen each day.

Duncan said departments should update that information. A deadline of April 3 was set to receive that information from departments.

"We've got the archives now, which we didn't at the time," Duncan said.

The county has also added new property from the estate of Maurine Patton, who left her West Broad Street home to the county for use as a museum or county archives building and storage.

Blaylock said the house was not large enough to accommodate the archives and veterans hall, and the lot was not large enough to construct a large enough building for the archives.

Blaylock said another local resident had approached the county wishing to donate her extensive doll collection to the county for use in a museum.

"It'd be a big tourist draw," Blaylock said. "And there are several businesses that have said they would be willing to donate financially to get a museum going."

That would also allow space for the Putnam County Master Gardeners to create a garden.

The archives will soon need more space than is available at the old health department building and will need a large building to house the veterans information, archives and other items being donated to the county for preservation.

"People have just embraced this idea of preserving our history," Blaylock said. "If you want to plan for down the road, you need to plan for a real big building because people are wanting to give us things right and left."

Putnam County Clerk Wayne Nabors asked if it would be wise to move the archives to the health department if it would be out of room within a year. It is estimated the health department would allow the archives only one-third more room.

"In a matter of months, you'll be out of space again and you've spent money to fix up that space at the health department," Nabors said. "With this domino effect of moving offices, if you were to give my office to the trustee, there would be almost no renovations. There's \$1 million allocated to refurbish that. You may be able to use that somewhere else. I just hate to spend money we'll have to turn around and spend somewhere else."

Jere Mason, 11th District commissioner, said money being spent to relocate the archives to the health department would be spent regardless in refurbishing the space for storage for the clerk's office.

Jim Martin, 2nd District commissioner, moved to update the survey and the committee to meet again to make a recommendation to the planning committee. The motion was seconded by Eris Bryant, 8th District commissioner. The motion was unanimously approved.

The committee will meet again at 4:30 p.m. April 6 in the conference room of the county executive's office.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, Mar 19, 2009.

RECONFIGURING COURTHOUSE COULD HELP SPACE PROBLEM



<u>Heather Mullinix</u> Herald-Citizen Staff

Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea The land and facilities committee of the Putnam County Commission has recommended an architectural study for the courthouse to see if reconfiguring the offices of the register of deeds, property assessor and trustee would give all offices enough space and allow them to

remain close together for the convenience of the public.

PUTNAM COUNTY -- The land and facilities committee of the Putnam County Commission is recommending an architectural study be done on the historic Putnam County Courthouse to determine if offices could be reconfigured to make better use of available space.

The recommendation comes after a request by Putnam County Trustee Gail Glover to relocate to the county clerk's office when that building is vacated later this year. But commissioners worried about separating the trustee's office from the offices of the property assessor and the register of deeds.

"I've had some comments about if it would be a good idea to segregate the trustee from the register and property assessor," said Bob Duncan, 2nd District commissioner. "If there's a problem, they usually have to visit two of those offices."

Eris Bryant, 8th District commissioner, said, "We only have three offices on the first floor of this building [the courthouse]. Have we looked at reconfiguring that? My concern is the same. I think the three offices need to be in the same building. They all work hand in hand during tax season."

Commissioners said the last time the courthouse had been evaluated for renovation was in 1995 when the county clerk's office was moved down the street to the corner of Washington Avenue and Freeze Street.

Duncan moved to use some of the funds that had been set aside for renovation of the clerk's office to conduct an architectural assessment of the courthouse and how the building could effectively hold the trustee, register of deeds, property assessor and county executive offices. Jim Martin, 2nd District commissioner, supported the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The committee wants the study completed within 60 days.

The election commission office will be moving to South Willow Avenue in the new health department building while the county clerk will be moving to the old health department.

Surveys returned by county offices showed many wanted more space, but that space was primarily needed for storage.

Mike Atwood, 12th District commissioner, said, "With the exception of the county court clerk's office, the need for space is in storage."

"The storage is things we need to keep close to our office. I need these where I can get my hands on them," Bryant said, pointing to boxes stacked in the county executive's conference room that held employee insurance forms and other forms needed for new hires.

Blaylock said, in her office, there was little room with one staff member working wherever he could find space during the day. Bryant noted she had no where to talk with new hires except the conference room, which provided little privacy.

"We're out of space," Bryant said.

A possible solution to storage space could be using the second floor of the current county clerk building, which has not been renovated from jail space but does include heated floor space.

Another area of concern was the space for the county archives and veterans hall, which had been slated to move to the basement of the current health department after it is renovated for use by the county clerk's office.

"Since we cannot convert the current clerk's building back into a jail, would that be a potentially better space for the archives," said Duncan.

County Executive Kim Blaylock cautioned commissioners on changing the plans for the county archives because that would either cause the office to have to close for a period of time or delay the moving of a regional soil conservation office to the space the archives is currently using in the Agricultural Building on Walnut Avenue.

Atwood said he would support a permanent solution to the archives needs, which needed more space.

"That thing is full and there continues to be interest in displaying more stuff," Atwood said.

Bids for renovating the old health department are due to go out at the first of May.

The committee voted to move forward with the bid process for renovation of the old health department, with bids for archives space to be an addendum, giving the committee more time to study the possibilities for that office.

Wednesday, Apr 08, 2009: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

COURTHOUSE PROJECT GETTING A CLOSER LOOK

Heather Mullinix Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN Monday, Apr 20, 2009

PUTNAM COUNTY -- The planning committee of the Putnam County Commission voted recently to hire an architect to study possible reconfiguration of the county courthouse to accommodate the needs of the offices housed in that building.

The committee also voted to issue bids for renovation of the old health department to house the county clerk's office, with space for the county archives bid as an alternate.

County Executive Kim Blaylock said, "The theory is there may be some wasted space on the second floor and, if things were reconfigured, there would be enough room to accommodate Gail's [Glover, county trustee] needs. Then Gail, Harold [Burgess, register of deeds] and Rhonda [Chaffin, property assessor] could stay together and have room."

Glover had previously requested the commission allow her office to move to the current county clerk's office once he has moved to the old health department. The land and facilities committee was concerned about moving Glover away from the other two offices, which often work together and communicate frequently. Customers having a problem with one office often have to visit at least one of the other two offices, as well.

Blaylock did not know how much the architectural study would cost, saying she would most likely issue a request for proposals.

Jere Mason, 11th District commissioner, asked if those office holders could possibly work together to do their own study. Blaylock said it would be best to have someone trained in utilizing space conduct the study.

Mike Atwood, 12th District commissioner, said the study would need to take the space needs of the county executive's office and how to best utilize space being vacated by the election commission office.

Jim Martin, 2nd District commissioner, moved to conduct the study, using funds set aside for the renovation of the current clerk's office to pay for the study. He requested the study be completed within 60 days and any decision regarding moving offices be delayed pending the outcome of the study. Larry Epps, 1st District commissioner, seconded the motion which was approved with Mike Medley, 7th District

commissioner, voting no.

The committee also voted to move forward with the bid process to renovate the old health department for use by the county clerk's office and to bid space for the archives office as an alternate.

Medley questioned why the county didn't go ahead and build a new archives facility on land donated to the county by former historian Maureen Patton, who died in February.

"We have this property to go ahead and build a building," Medley said.

Blaylock said the property was not large enough to accommodate an archives facility.

"Based on what we've done there in less than a year's time, Mrs. Patton's house is not going to be big enough to accommodate the need," she said.

The county is investigating other possible uses for that donated land and home, which must be used as a museum or to support historic preservation in the county. The county has not officially accepted the property.

The land and facilities committee recommended making the archives office at the health department an alternate to the bid because they were not sure it was cost effective solution to the archive's space needs. At that meeting, Atwood said a permanent solution should be sought for the office.

"That thing is full and there continues to be interest in displaying more stuff," Atwood said.

The committee recommended bidding the archive space as an alternate to the health department renovation to give the committee more time to study possible solutions.

Martin moved to issue bids for the renovation, leaving the archives facility as an alternate. Epps seconded the motion that was approved with Medley voting no.

PUT ARCHIVES IN OLD HEALTH BUILDING?

Heather Mullinix Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN Saturday, Apr 25, 2009

PUTNAM COUNTY -- The Putnam County Commission voted to take a month to consider the best use of the office space it has available, voting to 14 to 8 recently to refer the matter of relocating the county clerk's office back to the land and facilities committee for study.

Jere Mason, 11th District commissioner, proposed keeping the County Clerk Wayne Nabors' office at its current location on North Washington Avenue, installing an elevator and allowing access to the second floor of the building. That would leave the old health department on Dixie Avenue available to move the archives which has quickly grown out of its space at the Agricultural Building on Walnut Avenue.

"That will eliminate having to build an archives building somewhere else and have all of our buildings utilized and none of them sitting empty," said Mason.

Nabors told the Herald-Citizen, "I don't see how that can work."

He said traffic and parking are difficult for those needing to come to the clerk's office now and there is not enough working space.

"We have six work stations and a little lobby. We bottle neck all the time," Nabors said.

He is also concerned about using the upstairs space as he would not be able to monitor the two floors.

"The whole point of the vision was to make it better for the citizens," Nabors said. "We've outgrown this building with 75,000 people in Putnam County."

Nabors had previously requested an elevator be added to the renovation plans for the health department to assist his staff in accessing both the upper and lower floors of the building. The main office would be housed on the upper floor while the drive through window would be on the bottom floor.

The commission had also considered using a portion of the basement of the health department to house the archives, which continues to add to its collection of veterans and county historical memorabilia.

Mason first moved to go forward with bids for renovating the health department for the county clerk's office, with Gene Mullins, 10th District commissioner, providing the second. When he amended the motion, Mullins withdrew his support. David Randolph, 1st District commissioner, seconded the motion, which was approved with a 12 to 8 vote. Voting against the motion were Jerry Ford, 3rd District commissioner; Andy Honeycutt, 4th District commissioner; Johnnie Wheeler and Anna Ruth Burroughs, 5th District commissioners; Mike Medley and Joe Trobaugh, 7th District commissioners; and Kevin Maynard and Gene Mullins, 10th District commissioners. Commissioners Bob Duncan, 2nd District commissioner and Larry Epps, 1st District, were absent.

Mason said funds had already been set aside to fund renovation of the health department and the county clerk's office.

The commission also voted to use a portion of funds allocated for renovation of the current county clerk office space to pay for an architectural study of the courthouse. The study would need to be completed in 60 days and would study the use of office space and determine if reconfiguring the space would allow room for the county trustee, property assessor and register of deeds to remain in close proximity to each other. It would also determine the best use of space for the current election commission office, which will be moving to an office in the new health department later this year.

The commission also approved pursuing possible funding, including grants and interest free loans, to complete an energy conservation project. An energy audit by Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. determined the county could save about \$81,000 each year by replacing light fixtures and updating other mechanical systems. The cost of the project is estimated at \$965,141 and the county would recoup that cost through energy savings in 12.9 years.

The county could qualify for grants and interest free loans through the recent economic stimulus and the state.



HELPING AT THE ARCHIVES

Sponsored by the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, nine young adults were sent to the Putnam County Archives to help with various tasks such as indexing records, collecting valuable historical documents and renovating the historic Maurine Patton property on West Broad Street. Pictured, seated, from left, is Jacob Wingert, Josh Hill, Jodonn Jared, Melissa Kinnaird, Tim Bishop, Hannah Scott, Trey Burnette and Tiffany Pruett. Standing is Kim Blaylock, county executive; Trent Maynard, Blaylock's grandson; and Glenn Jones, archivist. Not pictured is Mickey Dotson. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 21 July 2009.

http://www.ajlambert.com