



COUNTY Probation office to finally get new location

By Melanie Wilkinson
 NEWS EDITOR

YORK – After months of looking for a suitable location, debating the financial aspect and talking with participating counties, the District 5 probation office officially has a new home.

The York County Commissioners signed a lease agreement Tuesday morning for property at 214 West Sixth Street.

The space on the second floor of the York County Courthouse that has been occupied by the probation office has been tight for some time, to say the least. Now, with more probation officers also utilizing the space to fulfill new state mandated work – it is time to move.

“The owner of the property has agreed to make some accommodations to the property to allow for enough offices,” said York County Attorney Candace Dick, who assisted with the process. “With the construction changes, the lease will be \$1,200 a month for three years. The agreement also calls for the county to pay 50 percent of the utilities – there hasn’t been a renter for awhile, he estimates that will be about \$400 a month (the county’s share).”

Officials in Merrick, Hamilton and Polk Counties

have been asked to participate in the cost of the office. Probation officers out of the York office work those jurisdictions as well.

“I’ve sent a draft of an interlocal agreement to the other counties, but I haven’t heard from them yet,” Dick said.

Bonnie Gerard, senior probation officer, reminded the county commissioners that the county has received a grant that will carry the bulk of the rent for the first year.

“And you can apply for that grant every year,” Gerard said, “which will certainly help with the costs.”

“I would also hope that other grants and funds will be made available in the future, because these are state mandates placed on the counties,” Dick said.

The commissioners agreed to have Bulgrin sign the lease, which will become effective Nov. 1. The probation office will begin transitioning at that time, although interior construction work will be taking place in certain places within the building. The lease will be \$1,000 a month until the interior renovations are completed.

Meanwhile, Dick said she asked the other counties to provide funds by Dec. 31 that would pay their percentage of the costs actually spent.