

Commissioners Concerned with County Attorney's Private Practice in County Building

By Assistant Publisher/Editor Nick Trandahl

With the Weston County Commissioners previously agreeing to let their County Attorney, Michael Stulken, draft a rental agreement to rent office space for his private practice, Stulken Law Office, in the Weston County Annex, the Commission revisited that topic on Tuesday, September 5th, during their regular meeting. The Weston County Annex also houses the County Attorney's Office, which would then share a building with the County Attorney's private practice. The rent initially accepted for Stulken Law Office was only \$400.00 per month.

Starting the discussion, Commissioner Garrett Borton expressed concern about renting the County space out to the County Attorney's private practice. "It's interesting that our County Attorney is the one renting," he remarked. "I don't know if his personal practice is appropriate to rent that space." He concluded, "Even if it is legal, I feel like the County is favoring that business by not bidding it out to others."

Vice Chairman Nate Todd remarked that the rent should've been \$600.00, instead of being mistakenly stated at \$400.00.

Commissioner Borton added that he had been contacted by concerned constituents. He continued, "FOCUS was a non-profit renting that space, but I'm unsure about a private practice."

Chairman Ed Wagoner stated, "I don't know because our County Attorney is who we go to for this advice, but he's not here." County Attorney Stulken and/or a Deputy County Attorney wasn't in attendance during the regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting during this conversation.

Commissioner Vera Huber stated her agreement with Commissioner Borton's line of thinking, also adding that if the County needed to utilize that space in the County Annex in the future, it would be tied up in a private practice.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO CONTINUE READING...