



## **PRESS RELEASE**

RELEASE ON AUGUST 31, 2021

### **COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE LOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION FACILITY**

**ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, Jefferson, Ohio** – After months of research and due diligence, the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the location of the Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Facility (CCRF). The Board has secured a letter of intent with an option to purchase the property and is working out the final details of the purchase agreement with the property owner. This detail is a critical component of the project and will allow for location of the CCRF on a portion of approximately 35 acres of parcel number 25-015-00-025-01, in Jefferson Township. The property is located on the west side of State Route 46 North and is approximately 1,000 feet north of King Luminaire and the purchase price is \$350,000.

After extensive research was conducted and numerous items taken into consideration including geotechnical assessments, costs for infrastructure, community impact, proximity to current court house, economic development opportunities, funding sources for various aspects of the project, and land acquisition expense, the board determined this to be the best location for the future Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Facility. The property purchase is contingent upon funding availability.

“I am excited we have been able to reach this milestone as it relates to this impactful project for our community. As we recognize that this is one of the final aspects of the project, we are pleased to share this news. This November you will have an opportunity to vote on the funding for this project, it is my hope that members of the public become fully educated so they can make an informed decision,” stated Casey Kozlowski.

J.P. Ducro remarked, “While I understand why the location is important to people, the key to this project is the impact it will have on the community, by making us safer and by providing immediate consequences for criminals and by changing the way we administer criminal justice in Ashtabula County, focusing on better outcomes for those entering the system. It is both a public safety and economic development issue.”

Sheriff Niemi noted, “I appreciate the efforts of the Board of Commissioners in securing this property. This will support law enforcement and corrections and ensure the safety of our residents, promoting law and order in Ashtabula County and solving the issues we face as a community with jail space.”

This November, Issue One will be on the ballot posing the question to approve a half-percent modification to the county’s sales and use tax. This issue will help generate funds necessary for the construction of the facility, appropriate staffing and would equal fifty cents for every \$100 of taxable purchases. County residents are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming community presentations in person or virtually that will provide extensive details on the project or go to the website at [www.ashtabulacounty.us/ccrf](http://www.ashtabulacounty.us/ccrf) to learn more.

Kathryn Whittington shared, “I want to thank the residents of the county for taking an interest in this endeavor that presents the opportunity to be transformational for our county. The future development of this project has the ability to meet the needs of those entering into the criminal justice system, helping to keep our community safe.”

# Q and A

## **WHAT LED TO THE DECISION OF ACQUIRING THIS PROPERTY?**

There were many factors we had to consider. Infrastructure costs, proximity to the current courthouse, impact on the surrounding neighborhood, geotechnical conditions, funding sources for various aspects of the project, and property acquisition costs. Ultimately, we did not want to make an announcement until we could secure a final purchase price with the property owner and this took time to negotiate. We are glad that this has been finalized and are able to make this announcement prior to it being voted upon which is what the Commissioners pledged to do.

## **WHERE ARE THE OTHER PROPERTIES THAT WERE CONSIDERED?**

All properties explored were within a few miles of the courthouse. A list of the final properties that were under consideration is available upon request.

## **WILL THIS BE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF JEFFERSON VILLAGE?**

The selected location is currently in Jefferson Township, but we anticipate working closely with the Village of Jefferson to pursue extension of infrastructure and annexation into the village.

## **WHY WAS THIS LOCATION SELECTED?**

For a number of reasons. Geotechnical assessments, costs for infrastructure, community impact, proximity to current court house, economic development opportunities, funding sources for various aspects of the project, and land acquisition expense. There is enough room to expand if there is a desire or need in the future to place other compatible facilities close to the CCRF to create a complex committed to criminal justice reform, it was close enough the village that we could access infrastructure and remain a part of Jefferson Village, and there were minimal needs for property modification (timber clearing, wetland mitigation, etc.) to begin construction.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE OLD JAIL SPACE?**

Consolidate county offices, expand existing and overcrowded offices, partnership with treatment or service providers, and lease space.

## **WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?**

Go to [www.ashtabulacounty.us/ccrf](http://www.ashtabulacounty.us/ccrf) for additional information.

## **Upcoming educational presentations include:**

- 6PM Tuesday, August 31, 2021 - Pierpont Presbyterian Church, 71 SR 7 South, Pierpont
- 6PM Thursday, Sept 2, 2021 - Giddings Hall (Village Table), 104 E Jefferson St., Jefferson
- 6PM Tuesday, Sept 7, 2021 - Colebrook Community Center, 682 US 322, Orwell
- 5PM Thursday, Sept 9, 2021 - Peoples Baptist Church, 3837 West Ave, Ashtabula
- 6PM Tuesday, Sept 14, 2021 - Orwell Fire Hall, 72 E Main St, Orwell
- 6PM Wednesday, Sept 15, 2021 - Harpersfield Community Ctr, 5604 Cork Cold Springs Rd Geneva
- 6PM Thursday, Sept 23, 2021 - N. Kingsville Village Hall, 3541 E Center St, N. Kingsville