

Why Build a Court House

The Grand Jury Investigated Fully and Said a New Court House is Badly Needed

A Fire, of Which There is Always Grave Danger, Would be a Calamity. Look at Hamilton and Custer Counties. The Old Court Houses, Which Were Fire Traps Like Ours, Burned and Valuable Records Were Lost, Causing Loss to Property Owners and Endless Amount of Litigation

Your Titles are in Jeopardy as Long as the County Records are Stored in the Old Court House

About nine months ago the Grand Jury of Box Butte County in making their final report to the court, in substance made the following report concerning the need for a new court house in Box Butte County:

First. The vaults in which are stored the records of all real estate titles are not fire proof.

Second. All office rooms are small, inconvenient, inadequate, congested and not properly equipped for caring for the business of the county. The vaults are filled to their capacity and a great deal of labor and delay is occasioned in furnishing information to tax payers.

Third. In case the records should be lost the re-establishment of titles in the county would cost the tax payers a great deal more than the erection of a new building for the county.

Fourth. In conclusion the grand jury recommended that it was high time some action should be taken in the voting of bonds for the construction of a new court house, the present building being in a dilapidated condition, and a disgrace to the county.

What a New Court House Would Cost

In view of the amounts appropriated for the construction of court houses in adjacent counties, as shown below, it is not thought the amount of \$75,000 for a suitable building, properly equipped and furnished, is more than the people of Box Butte county should appropriate. Following is the assessed valuation and cost of court houses in adjacent counties:

Cheyenne county, assessed valuation,	\$2,220,026	Cost of court house.....	\$90,000
Dawes county,	2,150,078	Cost of court house.....	60,000
Sheridan county,	2,546,658	Cost of court house.....	50,000
Box Butte county,	2,016,271	Cost of court house.....	75,000

In the above figures in one or two instances the cost of furnishing the court house is not included, but in the appropriation for Box Butte county, the complete equipping and furnishing is contemplated for the amount stated.

Cost of Court House to Tax Payers

As taken from the county records the following is the assessed valuation of all property in the county for the past seven years:

1906,	\$1,052,678
1907,	1,193,960
1908,	1,526,189
1909,	1,743,738
1910,	1,777,375
1911,	1,916,639
1912,	2,016,271

An annual levy of two mills on the present basis of valuation will bring returns more than sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds. It will be seen from the above that in the past seven years the assessed valuation of Box Butte county has doubled and it is but fair to assume that in the next twenty years or the time at which these bonds would mature the assessed valuation will be three times what it is at present. This will result from vacant lands being patented, raw land being improved, and increase in population. With this condition existing a two-mill levy would make sufficient to pay all interest and create a sinking fund to retire the bonds at maturity.

In order that the property owners may know the approximate annual cost to them in cents for each quarter section of land owned we give below the average real value per quarter as shown by the county records for 1912 assessment, the tax to be paid on each quarter on a basis of thirty-five mills, which is the average figure for the total tax and the additional tax per quarter on account of a two-mill levy to pay interest on and create a sinking fund for the bonds:

Average real value per quarter	Tax on basis of 35 mills	Additional tax per quarter on 2 mill levy for bonds
Snake	\$ 578	\$4.05
Nonpareil	1056	7.39
Box Butte	660	4.62
Lake	1929	13.50
Wright	861	6.02
Dorsey	1414	9.90
Boyd	1102	7.71
Lawn	593	4.15
Running Water	664	4.65
Liberty	502	3.52

To the property owner who owns his home, valued from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and which is assessed at from \$1,200 to \$1,500, the cost per annum would be from 48c to 60c. Do you not think that a good court house would increase the value of your property much more than this amount? In other words, on a basis of \$1,000 actual value of taxable property the cost per annum will be 40c.

We have carefully canvassed the tax payers of the county. We find, on careful and painstaking investigation, that it is the unanimous desire and wish of every tax payer in the county who desires to work for his own interest and who fully understands present conditions and the proposition of building the new court house, that these bonds be voted. We invite the fullest investigation of the proposition. This committee has carefully gone into the matter and the figures given and statements made are accurate and given after due deliberation.

Every tax payer and resident of the county will find it to his interest to attend the meeting at the city hall in Alliance on Saturday afternoon, November 2nd.

Very respectfully yours,

COURT HOUSE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

BANNER STATEMENT

Following is a statement of

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA

at the close of business

October 30, 1912

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts	\$477,703.13
Overdrafts	506.56
United States bonds	51,000.00
Redemption fund	2,500.00
Banking house	10,000.00
Cash and Demand Reserve	244,134.71
Total resources	\$785,844.40

LIABILITIES

Capital	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	50,000.00
Undivided profits	10,373.46
Circulation	49,997.50
Deposits	625,473.44
Total liabilities	\$785,844.40

This smashes all records for bank deposits in northwestern Nebraska. The deposits are larger than ever before in the history of The First National Bank, with total resources of over three-quarters of a million dollars, and the splendid condition of the business today is the result of a healthy and steady growth during the twenty-three years since its organization.

This is not an abnormal condition caused by a sudden large deposit. The following comparison of deposits shows a steady growth leading up to the present high mark:—

August 1, 1912,	Deposits,	\$407,942.61
September 1, 1912,	Deposits,	441,671.73
October 1, 1912,	Deposits,	482,434.36
October 10, 1912,	Deposits,	576,328.80
October 25, 1912,	Deposits,	594,250.94
October 30, 1912,	Deposits,	625,473.44

You Can Bank on the Old Reliable First National Bank

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

CHAS. E. FORD
S. K. WARRICK

R. M. HAMPTON
F. J. WAS

EUGENE E. FORD