FORT MADISON - A friendly, youthful gaze from behind a narrow pair of glasses and a welcoming smile nestled between a neatly trimmed mustache and beard are the trademarks of a local printer whose business is just days away from rolling over 140 years in Fort Madison.

Neal Dodd, owner of Dodd Printing and Stationery at 621 Avenue G, is pulling up on the anniversary in January, but one wouldn't be able to tell this husband and father has been doing it that long.

With an almost hip approach to business and life in general, Dodd, along with his wife Lynn, mold and move this printing and supply shop through the decades with a perceived ease of step. And with megaprinting shops like Staples popping up in most decent sized communities, Dodd’s ease in approach is counterintuitive to the generation of get it fast, get it now.

He says he stays viable with a personal approach to everything past, present and looking ahead.

“I think you just have to,” Dodd said.

“I think it’s possible. The jail referendum passed. But it may take more than one election.”

-Julie Schilling, LCHD Administrator

Nothing ‘stationery’: Dodds still on the move

Health dept. plans move forward

Floor plan
Lee County Health Department Administrator Julie Schilling and John Hansen of Midwest Construction Consultants revealed the LCHD’s floor plan and drawings for the proposed $2.2 million new building. A bond referendum is tentatively set for May 2.

Drawing courtesy of John Hansen, Midwest Construction Consultants

County approves consulting agreement

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - The Lee County Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with Midwest Construction Consultants to start the process of getting county buildings up to snuff.

At Tuesday’s meeting, the board voted 5-0 to approve a resolution authorizing the agreement between LCC and the county for renovations on the county buildings, which have been part of a three-year county maintenance plan.

Supervisor Gary Folluo said the idea of renovating the building has been “kicked around” for the past five years and now that voters have indicated they didn’t want a new central building, it’s time to move on getting the projects started.

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**From the Front**

**Folluo still concerned about traffic at turn to county property**

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"This is a serious issue here. We're talking about putting another 20 to 30 people in at certain times... it's a serious issue," Folluo said.

"I think it does deserve some study because I've been caught out here before and I know the area and when people are coming here for help, it's not a good scenario out here on this viaduct. I don't know what the plans are... if the state were to consider something different out here on this viaduct. I don't know what the plans can be.

"I think from a taxpayers view this should show good merit that we are using property we already own," he said.

**County board wants to start bidding county projects soon**

**DEAL** - Continued from Page 1

"Let's do it for a year and see how it goes and in that time we can see what our cost is. If it's cost effective to put an employee on or keep doing this," Fedler said.

"This is the time of the year contractors start signing contracts for work for next year," Fedler said.

"The longer you wait, and all of sudden they get booked full, they will still bid them but the price goes up. So you're almost better off to try and get in there, because we're gonna do some of this anyway, and if we get bid earlier rather than waiting til later, we can get a better bid."

The agreement would empower MCC, at the continuous direction of the Board of Supervisors, to provide construction management services for long-term renovations of the South Lee County Courthouse, North Lee County Courthouse, Attorney's office, North Lee County office building and other facilities as directed.

The firm would also assist in the development of public bids and provide construction administrative services including contractor coordination and quality inspections as a representative of the Lee County board.

The agreement can be stopped or postponed at anytime without additional costs to the county. MCC would charge $75 per hour for services, .59 per mile for mileage and any printing and postage costs would be at actual cost.

"Our proposal was based on the three-year Lee County maintenance plan and also on the studies that were developed by Design Partnership. So basically what I've tried to do is go over some of the services that we'd be willing to provide," said John Hansen owner of MCC.

"We've worked with several public entities on long-term projects and one we worked with for about four years. Since there is not a definitive scope of work, basically we are recommending the board would determine the scope of services to be provided at this point."

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked what a maintenance director would cost the city and Fraise indicated a good director would cost the county $70,000 to $75,000 with benefits and suggested that Hansen could do the work at quite a bit less than hiring a full-time person to administrate the maintenance projects.
For the Record

12/22/2016 - 1:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue E. 12/22/2016 - 1:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue C. 12/22/2016 - 2:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O. 12/22/2016 - 2:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Melissa Anne Jones, 37, of Keokuk on a charge of 5th degree theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center. 12/23/2016 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue H. 12/22/2016 - 4:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of 14th Street. 12/22/2016 - 5:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Penny Flores, 41, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of 8th Street on a charge of assault. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center. 12/23/2016 - 4:18 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Allen William Penrod, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 14th Street, on a charge of persons under legal age (2nd offense) and disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center. 12/23/2016 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2100 block of 302nd Avenue. 12/23/2016 - 2:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run accident in the 1200 block of Avenue F. 12/23/2016 - 2:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of Avenue H and 15th Street. 12/23/2016 - 4:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue L. 12/23/2016 - 3:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Robert Alan Ulk, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of Avenue H on two warrant services. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center. 12/23/2016 - 4:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a hit and run accident in the 4500 block of Avenue O. 12/23/2016 - 7:46 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue C. 12/24/2016 - 12:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area. No address provided. 12/24/2016 - 2:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue F. 12/26/2016 - 4:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4600 block of Avenue J. 12/26/2016 - 12:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Rubery L. Elizabeth, 18, of Montrose at Rodeo Park in Fort Madison on a charge of public intoxication, aggravated assault of a police officer, disorderly conduct and two warrants for prescription drug violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 12/26/2016 - 10:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Eliaha Boyle, 30, of Hawkeye Village in Keokuk, in the 1600 block of 29th Street, Argyle, on charges of public intoxication, aggravated assault of a police officer, disorderly conduct and two warrants for prescription drug violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 122/26/2016 - 12:45 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melissa Anne Jones, 37, of Estes St. in Keokuk, on a charge of forgery from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 12/27/2016 - 12:45 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jordon Rod Dale Snowden, 23, of Johnson Street Rd. in Keokuk on charges of 1st offense OWI and driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

A criminal charge is an accusation and those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

For the Record/Local News

12/23/2016 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5200 block of River Valley Road. 12/25/2016 - 11:31 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 330 block of Argyle Rd. According to reports, Loretta Ann Brown, 69, of Keokuk, lost control of her vehicle on a turn and collided with a utility pole. The accident resulted in minor injuries to Brown who was transported to Keokuk Area Hospital and a power outage due to the damaged pole. No citations were issued at the scene. 12/23/2016 - 3:04 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Billy Dean Perkins, 25, of Eagle Drive in Bonaparte in the 2800 block of Bellad Rd., Argyle on charges of OWI 1st offense and serious injury by vehicle. Perkins was taken to Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. He was released on bond.

12/25/2016 - 10:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 61 and Argyle Road. A vehicle driven by Jacob William Kite, 17 of Keokuk, was struck by a vehicle driven by Jamie Ryan Mason, 30, of Fort Madison. According to reports, Kite turned left onto Argyle Road and was struck broad-side by Mason's vehicle. No injuries were reported. Mason was cited for a registration violation. No other citations were issued at the scene. 12/23/2016 - 1:47 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident on Hwy 61 northbound. A vehicle driven by Trevor Jeffrey Hawkins, 26 of Montrose struck a vehicle driven by Heidi Rachelle Weber, 38, of Roy, Mont. According to reports Hawkins was merging onto traffic on Hwy 61 and sideswiped Weber's vehicle merging into traffic. Both vehicles sustained minor damage. No citations were issued at the scene. No injuries were reported. 12/23/2016 - 4:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Eliaha Boyle, 30, of Hawkeye Village in Keokuk, in the 1600 block of 29th Street, Argyle, on charges of public intoxication, aggravated assault of a police officer, disorderly conduct and two warrants for prescription drug violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 12/22/2016 - 6:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 34th Place. 12/22/2016 - 5:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 12/22/2016 - 4:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run accident in the 1200 block of Avenue F. 12/23/2016 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue D. 12/26/2016 - 1:15 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Ruby L. Elizabeth, 18, of Montrose at Rodeo Park in Fort Madison on a charge of public intoxication, aggravated assault of a police officer, disorderly conduct and two warrants for prescription drug violation. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. He was released on bond.
“You have to reach out and do the right thing. That’s the only difference between us and someone in New York City that you can find online. It’s finding people and letting them know you’re gonna take care of them. It’s hard. I mean you and I can sit here and say ‘take a look at the pricing or whatever your concern is.’ But it’s finding out how you get that message across.”

“Services are becoming a little more of a viable product for our customers who need to fax or email something. The Dodds have 24/7 online ordering and Lynn said service oriented offering is becoming very popular in a very fast paced business environment.

“We’re not price wise too far off from them (national retail outlets),” Neal said. “The deal with staying viable is reaching people. As you well know reaching people now is social media and digital ways. In 1982 I could go out and call on people and I still do it, but 9 times out of 10 I get someone who would rather I leave them alone and they’ll find me on the Internet.”

And that’s an option as well. The Dodds have 24/7 online ordering and Lynn said service oriented offerings are becoming very popular in a very fast paced business environment.

“Services are becoming a little more of a viable product for our customers who need to fax or email something or scan something. The services side has grown quite a bit,” she said. “We have customers who are in the middle of a print job and they’re out of ink... and they’re hoping you have it right now.”

Neal said he’s starting to see things coming full circle from the rampant digital buying craze and how people are hoping you have it right now. “Its worked out.”

The business has gone through many changes of services and products, but Lynn says it’s the families history of flexibility that has kept them in the game. The family has offered everything from printing, to copy/fax equipment to computers, sporting goods and are now even dabbling in creating their own paper for bookmarks and special occasion stationery. Dodd said he has recently taken scrap paper introduced some leaves and soaked the materials in liquid and then pressed them to create a very unique quality paper that is just that something extra special you won’t get at the big stores.

He also says they keep their respective eyes on the big boxes to stay in line with pricing.

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Neal said he’s starting to see things coming full circle from the rampant digital buying craze and how people want to be treated in the retail and service sector.