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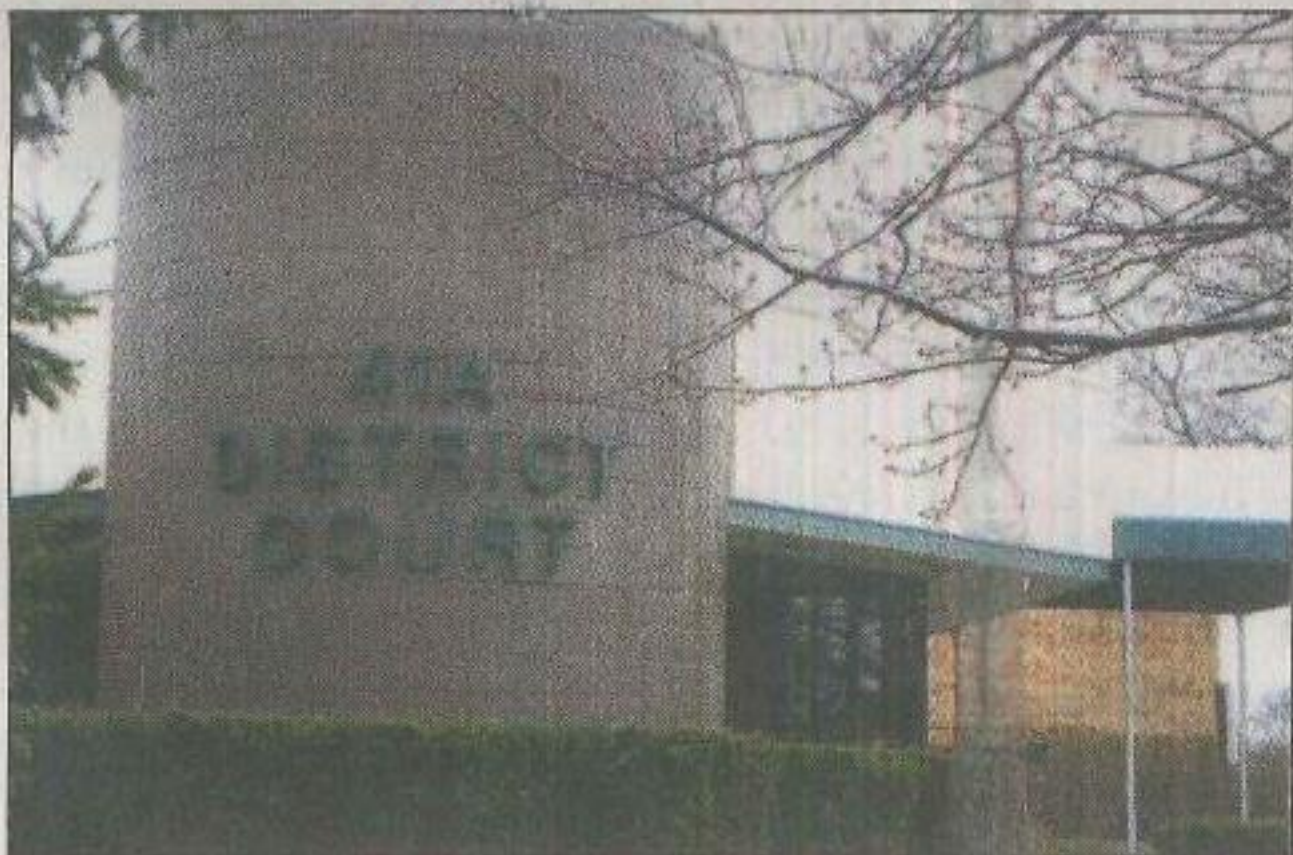
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At its next regular meeting on Aug. 4, the Board of Trustees will be asked to consider an agreement that would prohibit the 41-A District Court from relocating outside Shelby Township for the next 20 years, while also paving the way for improvements to the existing court building and community center.

Trustees to consider agreement with 41-A District Court

By SEAN DELANEY

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At its next regular meeting on Aug. 4, the Board of Trustees will be asked to consider an agreement that would prohibit the 41-A District Court from relocating outside Shelby Township for the next 20 years, while also paving the way for improvements to the existing court building and community center.

“If this agreement is approved by the board, I am confident we will find a resolution that serves all parties involved in the most cost-effective manner possible,” Township Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. “As with any issue we need to serve our taxpayers, but we also need to keep costs to a minimum while doing so.”

The prospect of the 41-A District Court leaving its longtime home on

Court

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Van Dyke north of 23 Mile Road surfaced several years ago when Macomb Township came forward with a tentative offer to build a new courthouse near its township hall, located on Broughton Road south of 25 Mile Road.

However, the court's "legacy costs," which include but are not limited to the underfunded portion of the health care benefits for former court employees, quickly became the main obstacle to the proposed relocation.

Although a tentative agreement was reached regarding how to allocate those and other long-term costs should the 41-A District Court relocate, Ma-

comb Township officials later voted to abandon the idea after an auditing firm projected that the court would not generate enough money to pay off bonds that would be necessary to construct a new building.

With relocation off the table, Shelby Township officials began looking at ways to fund improvements to the court, as well as the adjacent community center which houses the senior center, library and Shelby TV.

"Our board has examined the community center issue from all angles," Stathakis said. "We felt we could not move forward with investing tax dollars in the center until we had a concrete commitment from

the judges that, if that investment was made, there would be no changes in where the court was hosted for the foreseeable future."

According to Stathakis, the proposed agreement would prohibit the chief judge from requesting that the court sit anywhere but

Shelby Township for the next 20 years so that the township "may undertake the expense necessary to make improvements

to the court" with the understanding that renovations to the building must begin with one year of the signing of the agreement.

The proposed agreement also states that, in order to finance the improvements to the existing court build-

ing, the chief judge "will not seek or direct cases generated in Shelby (Township), Macomb (Township) or Utica to anyplace by the district court building."

Utica and Macomb Township will continue to have full use of the court's facilities, and each municipality will continue to be paid one-third of all fines and costs generated by tickets issues in their respective communities, while the remaining two-thirds shall be paid to Shelby Township as the host community.

"I am very pleased that Township Attorney Rob Huth and Chief Judge (Michael) Maceroni were able to put together an agreement for the board to consider, and I look forward to discussing this matter and hopefully voting on it at our Aug. 4 meeting," Stathakis said.

"Our board has examined the community center issue from all angles."

*Township Supervisor
Richard Stathakis*