County considers closing courthouse entrances

Written by Deb Egenberger Thursday, 10 February 2011 15:13 -

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LEXINGTON—Four public entrances to the Dawson County courthouse may be inviting danger to employees and patrons.

During the county board's regular bimonthly meeting on Feb. 1, commissioner Bill Stewart of Lexington asked fellow commissioners to consider keeping three of the exterior doors locked at all times and leaving only the east entrance open to the public.

In the wake of recent acts of violence in Nebraska and across the country, public safety concerns have risen to the forefront.

But commissioners want to know how the public might be affected.

The east entrance would be made handicap accessible with automatic doors.

County clerk Karla Zlatkovsky said there would be minimal impact on courthouse employees because they would continue to have key card entry through any door and all exterior doors would still function as exits.

"In some courthouses, like in Platte County, there is a uniformed guard who walks around the courthouse all day," Zlatkovsky said. "That may be a little too much for Dawson County."

Still, safety concerns remain. Stewart said he would bring feedback to the board at a later meeting.

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In other business, commissioners approved

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