

WJ, Ashe Schools Working to Move School Offices to Old WJ Elementary

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A major topic of discussion during Tuesday night's Town Aldermen's meeting in West Jefferson was the possibility of Ashe County's Board of Education offices moving into its city limits. During the meeting's public comment section Superintendent of Ashe County Schools, Dr. Travis Reeves

presented information about the Board of Education needing more space for its central office operations and the options that were being considered to meet these needs. He explained that one of the options was moving its central office operations to the old West Jefferson Elementary building. But to do that, Reeves said the schools would need a conditional use permit for a tennis court area for a maintenance facility. The proposed move was welcomed by the Aldermen with the exception of one major concern which was the possible negative impact on the appearance of the town if a proposed maintenance building was built on the property. Alderman Steven Shoemaker said he would love to have the school offices there, but the maintenance building is of concern. After a good deal of discussion as to how to make it possible for the Board of Education to use the old school effectively without negatively impacting the efforts the town has made to improve its appearance it was decided to table the topic till the next meeting. This action was taken to allow time for representatives from the Town's office and the Board of Education's office to pursue further discussions on how to make this move possible while accomplishing the goals of both organizations.