

back of the building where a printing press was removed. The hole was covered with plywood. Importantly, the city has no firm idea of how it will pay for the complete cost of the building. The total purchase is expected to be \$33 million.

The Pennington Foundation pledged \$5 million toward the purchase, sales of other city properties could produce another \$4.3 million, and the city's general fund will cover \$7 million. That

means \$17 million is still needed. As of July 24, Assistant City Manager Bill Thomas said the city did not have a solid plan to cover that amount.

"We need to come back with a financing plan to show ... how this is going to be funded," he explained. "We've had conversations—multiple conversations—with the philanthropic community, and what they've told us is, right now, they want to see whether the council really wants to do this."

Since the city approved the purchase, Thomas said council's approval would "be the gateway to go out to the many philanthropic organizations to get them ... to pledge money.

"Realistically, that's probably somewhere between \$5 and \$10 million dollars," he added. "Best case, we can probably get \$10 million that way. That \$7 million that's left. There is a cost that we're going to have to pay either way. Exactly how we'll do that, we'll have to bring back to the council, but maybe we can sell more properties so that \$7 million goes down, but, again, we have an exposure in the current station at \$7 million."

"We're waiting to see the outcome like everyone else."

Brian Duggan
Executive editor

The sale and purchase need to happen fast. The Pennington pledge has to be finalized by September 1.

"We're expecting the deal with Reno will close soon since it looks like there's a pretty hard deadline for the city to act in order to secure funding from the Pennington Foundation," RGJ's Executive Editor Brian Duggan said. "The newsroom isn't directly involved in those negotiations, though, so we're waiting to see the

outcome like everyone else."

The RGJ building has what the current RPD building does not—space, and plenty of it. This is needed for things such as staffing, evidence storage, and importantly, confidentiality. As law enforcement increasingly deals with mental health challenges, confidentiality, making police reports and conducting interviews are difficult in the existing RPD building.

"It's the majority of what we do," Soto said, "because there's no more resources. We're teachers, we're doctors, we're therapists, we're counselors, were police officers, we're rescue units—they work really hard."

RPD's new headquarters could become a reality as early as November of 2020 with final phases completed by July of 2021.

Bob Conrad runs the Reno-area news and events website, ThisIsReno.com, which partners with the Reno News & Review. □

For more on the Gannett/Gatehouse merger, see <https://bit.ly/2YX9Utp> and <https://bit.ly/2q6TprT>.



The space at the back of the building where the press was removed. The Gazette Journal is now printed in Carson City. PHOTO/DENNIS MYERS

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