

County closes on purchase of technology center

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

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Months after talks were initiated to take over part of the Great Lakes Technology Centre, Genesee County Land Bank officials closed the deal Wednesday.

County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard E. Hammel said in a written statement that tenants "are already lining up to lease space" in the 485,000-square-foot space the county purchased in the southern portion of the sprawling complex.

Former owners John C. Miller and Thomas Vigliotti sold the property for \$10, avoiding the cost of maintaining the mostly empty sections of the complex in the process.

Land Bank Chairman Daniel T. Kildee said negotiations to buy the complex were among the most difficult he has been involved in because the county sought environmental assurances from General Motors, which continues to lease space in the northern part of the Technology Centre.

The development was built at the site of the former Fisher Body plant where the Sit-Down Strike of 1936-37 occurred.

The Land Bank and Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce will manage the property after June 1, Kildee said. Chamber officials have said they plan to market the property to office, retail and industrial tenants.

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