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## Shenango Twp. officials receive bids for new building

MICHAEL ROKNICK Herald Business Editor 7 hrs ago



Shenango Township has received bids for a remodeling project for the municipal building.

CORY BYKNISH | Herald

**SHENANGO TOWNSHIP** – A project to expand and remodel the Shenango Township Municipal Building is coming closer to fruition.

The township has received bids for the project have been received and once a financing package is in hand the project can begin, said Supervisor Tom Hubert.

"We'll advertise for bank financing next week," said Hubert, the board's chairman, after the supervisors' meeting last week.

Last month, Hubert estimated that the project would cost between \$2.4 million to \$2.8 million. But after looking at the bids, he said the supervisors may cut out some extras and defer part of the work, which would scale back the cost to \$2.2 million.

The township hasn't yet awarded a contract. Before it can, Hubert said the township has to line up financing.

He said the township won't know monthly loan payments until banks make their proposals. The supervisors are looking for the loan to run between 15 to 20 years, he added.

"We have over \$1 million in our savings account now," Hubert said. "If the bids for interest rates on the loan come in low we would use less of that money in savings for the cost. If the bids come in high we would apply more of the money in savings."

He said the township may not need to raise taxes for the project. Shenango Township could tap into its savings, which would reduce the amount it has to borrow, and taking funds the township places in the savings account each month and instead applying it to the loan payments.

"We could have the yearly cost of paying for the loan already in our budget," he said.

A final decision by supervisors on awarding bids for construction and the loan will likely be made in the next month or two, Hubert said. The project could begin as early as May or June with a completion date of April 2020, he added.

Hubert has said that the building, built in 1968, has had little work done in the last 51 years.

Plans call for new construction that would add 3,672 square feet to the current 7,500 sq. ft. facility.

**A significant chunk of the project cost — \$525,000 — is an estimate for Aqua Pennsylvania to extend a water line to the building. The building now gets its water from a well but Hubert said it's undrinkable.**

The project calls for addition of a conference room with a storage area and a serving kitchen, which would have a sink and a microwave oven or stove. The kitchen would connect to a community room that could be used for gatherings.

Plans also include rooms for police officers to conduct interviews and file reports. The police department would also have a small kitchen area and a new evidence space.

New windows facing Route 318 and Jackson Road would be made of bulletproof glass.

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