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ALERT FEATURED

Shenango municipal building to get upgrade

By MICHAEL ROKNICK Herald Business Editor 4 hrs ago

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MICHAEL ROKNICK | Herald

Tom Hubert, chairman of Shenango Township’s supervisors, center, shows township police patrolmen Anthony Libonati, foreground and Jim Forsythe plans to renovate and add more space to the township’s municipal building.

SHENANGO TOWNSHIP – Township supervisors are considering a project to expand and renovate the municipal building at a potential cost between \$1.4 million to \$1.8 million.

The building was dedicated on Jan. 28, 1968, and little work has been done in the 50 years since, said Tom Hubert, chairman of the township's supervisors. Supervisors are expected to vote on the project as soon within the next few months.

"It's long overdue for work," Hubert said.

The building's size is 7,500 square feet, including garage space. The proposed new construction would add 3,672 square feet. Hubert said the project would improve safety and create a modern working environment.

Plans call 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.

"The community room would be available for groups who need a place to meet," Hubert said. "And by adding the kitchen they would be able to serve light foods and snacks."

He said the building would comply with current provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The restrooms, entry doors and the community room, which is used as a polling site for elections, would be compliant with the federal law governing access for people with disabilities.

"When the building was constructed it was made ADA complaint – for requirements of that time," he said. "Since then new standards have been created for things like the entrance through the door."

A portion of the additional space would be dedicated to the township police department. Visitors would be able to enter a secure reception area, where an officer could buzz them in.

The project would include a room for officers to conduct interviews and another to work on reports. The police department would also include a small kitchen area.

"We also would have a new evidence room for police," Hubert said. "What we have now is just a small closet and small lockers."

Police are required to keep evidence in a secured place. The plans also call for a locker room for the officers.

