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TOPICAL ALERT FEATURED

# Shenango municipal building work to begin

By MICHAEL ROKNICK Herald Business Editor Aug 18, 2019

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Trees are being removed and the ground prepared for construction that could begin as early as this week at the Shenango Township municipal building.

MICHAEL ROKNICK | Herald

**SHENANGO TOWNSHIP – Construction is set to begin for the \$2.35 million Shenango Township municipal building expansion and remodeling project, said Tom Hubert, chairman of the township supervisors.**

“The contractor is taking down the trees near the building now and we hope to begin construction in the upcoming days,” Hubert said after the supervisors’ regular monthly meeting on Thursday.

One last piece still needed for the project is to close the deal for a \$2.25 million loan from First National Bank of Pennsylvania. That is expected to happen this week, Hubert said.

Terms of the loan call for it to be repaid over 10 years at a 3.8 percent fixed interest rate, township documents show. But the township may not need to borrow the full amount.

“We have \$1.2 million in savings,” Hubert said. “If something unexpected comes up, we’ll have that in hand.”

He also said supervisors are working to avoid having to raise taxes for the project, at least for the upcoming year.

“We’re going to be starting to plan our budget for next year soon,” Hubert said. “And I don’t see any tax increases.”

Completion of the project is expected by late spring or early summer, he said.

Hubert has said that the building, built in 1968, is in desperate need of expansion and upgrading.

The 7,500-square-foot building will be expanded by 3,672 square feet.

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 will be made of bulletproof glass.**

**Hudson Construction, Hermitage, is the general contractor for the project.**

**Township offices and the police department have moved temporarily to a building on Carbaugh street that sits behind Shenango Steel Buildings in West Middlesex.**

**The Shenango Township Volunteer Fire Department and the township's road crew will remain at their current location next to the township's municipal building.**

**Separately, Hubert said the Shenango Township Municipal Authority continues to work in finalizing its major sewer project. He is a member of the authority that operates independently from the supervisors. Bids for the first phase of the construction came in more than \$1.1 million higher than expected.**

**Rudzic Excavating, Struthers, Ohio, was the low bidder with at \$8.448 million, and Penn-Ohio Electric, Masury, was the low bidder for the electrical work on the project with a \$138,000 bid.**

**The authority said it's seeking more money from PennVEST, the state's infrastructure funding agency. PennVEST awarded the authority a \$2.1 million grant and a \$7.87 million low-interest loan for the project.**

**Under the project, about 12 miles of new sewer lines have to be installed in the community. He said he felt it was still possible for construction to begin this year but that it might fall into next year.**

**Hubert said the community is under a consent order from the state Department of Environmental Protection to complete the project.**

**"There is no choice here," he said.**

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