

Contract Approved for Work on Fire Station No. 1

Work To Begin Soon on Replacement of Fire Station No. 1

Sylvania Township trustees have approved a contract with Mosser Construction for the project to replace Fire Station No. 1 in downtown Sylvania for \$1.965 million.

The firm was the lowest of seven companies which submitted proposals for the project.

The resolution passed with the votes of Chairman John Jennewine and trustee Neal Mahoney. Trustee Kevin Haddad voted against the contract. He said after the meeting that he thinks the project will dig into township savings which could be depleted in five to six years.

John Zeitler, township administrator, said he is very happy with the Mosser bid.

In a written statement he added that "the real budget should be what it will cost to build a fire station that covers the basic needs of the community in 2013 and for years to come." He also noted that in other places in the past he has seen items cut from projects in order to meet a budget, and years later it is realized that the action had "a major impact on the quality or functionality of the facility." He said that he and Joseph Vetter, of the Vetter Design Group, architects for the project, and Fire Chief Jeffrey Kowalski will closely follow the progress of construction.

In his written statement, which he handed out to the trustees, he added that "I will work with our team to make sure only the necessary expenses occur in building this station, but I will not sacrifice something in the construction that will come back in 5 or 10 years and cost us more money to repair or replace at the time."

The base amount of money available for construction, Mr. Zeitler said, is slightly more than \$2 million. He added that there is also \$200,000 which had been set aside for land acquisition which is no longer needed for that purpose and could be used if necessary to cover any contingencies which might arise during the project.

The bond levy passed in 2008, which has financed the improvement of one fire station and the construction of two others, currently brings in about \$1.5 million annually. He also noted there are adequate reserves in the township capital projects fund to cover "any reasonable necessary expenses."

Money from the current general operating fund will not be "used in any circumstances to pay for the construction" project, he added.

The project is expected to begin later this month with razing the current station.

Firefighters and equipment, including fire trucks, will operate from a house on the northwest corner of McCord and Brint roads. The use of the house has been donated by Lourdes University.

The target date for resuming operations from the new station is November 1.

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