

Oxford Town Hall Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location, Time & Date: Country Roads Church in Oxford township, 9am September 30, 2024

Present at meeting:

Donna Setter - Chair
Deb Cramer
Robert Generous
Peggy Nelson
Mike Miller
Gloria McDonnell

Discussion:

Per Peggy - existing town hall is 30' X 40'

Pankin built a 40' X 50' building for \$100,000- that doesn't include cost for concrete foundation; building is insulated with heat and air conditioning

Per Donna - new Sunrise town hall will cost about \$500,000, it has some office space and a caterer kitchen; Peggy thought capacity of this town hall was 100

Donna asked what the board wants of this committee- Per Mike the committee should be neutral and should explore the options of remodel existing building, remodel and expand existing building, or build new building

Per Mike - land survey shows we can construct a new building that is 80ft wide (east to west maximum with) and up to 100 ft long

Per Mike the bid we have to clear the mold and put building back together doesn't include cost of heat and AC, Mike estimates this total bid would be about \$200,000 +/- 10%; We don't have a bid for the roof but Mike estimates this to be at least \$50,000

Per Mike if we build new building we will need to account for water and sewer. Existing sewer freezes every winter. New sewer needed whether we keep the old building or build new and cost will be about \$15,000

Per Deb- Cambridge township doesn't have a town hall. They meet at the historical society and have determined they could pay rent to meet somewhere for 100 years and still not spend what they would spend to construct a building. They also save money by not having insurance, utility and maintenance costs. Mike said parts of Cambridge township keep getting annexed into the city and that is why they are hesitant to spend money to build a town hall. Mike indicated Oxford Township is not a candidate for annexation

Deb asked if we could meet at the fire hall indefinitely. Gloria questioned the township ability to continue to meet outside of the township boundaries

Deb suggested holding township meetings at the saddle club by Anderson park

Mike said responsibilities of the township are to (1) provide for protection such as fire protection; (2) maintain township roads, (3) provide a safe place for voting

All- lots of discussion about what people would want of a new town hall ie - kitchen, recreation, etc or do people simply want a place to attend a monthly meeting. Discussion about potential future growth of the township - factors contributing to the growth are fast internet, work from home culture, people moving from cities or other parts of country to escape weather or other conditions. Mike suggested adding a garage to the new building to store a plow truck etc if the township moves to having some of its own equipment and employees

Mike suggested putting aside money from the levy each year for a building fund until the funds are available to construct a new building. The challenge with that approach is depending on the annual levy. The people who attend the March meeting set the levy each year and there is no guarantee the levy will continue to be approved. There is a question of whether the board can specifically set aside money from the general fund. Donna indicated one board can't commit a future board to any actions so a change in the board could cause the money set aside for a building fund to be used differently.

We need to know how long we can use the firehall and will there be any cost associated with the use. Will we be able to store our video/audio equipment at the fire hall so we can continue to conduct the meetings via zoom

Lots of discussion about canceling insurance, internet, etc at the existing building. Need to research further and should be discussed at a regular board meeting

Donna and committee will hold a listening session at the firehall on Tuesday October 8th prior to the regular board meeting. The session will be from 5:45pm to 6:15pm. Another listening session will be planned for November.

Next committee meeting - Monday October 14th 9am at Country Roads Church

TO DO's for next meeting

Deb- reach out to Saddle Club to determine availability, rental rate, tables/ chairs for set up. capacity, and internet capabilities

Mike - ask Harlan to check with firehall to determine how long we can use the building for our meetings, do they have a place for us to store our video/audio equipment, internet capabilities, tables/chairs for set up, and capacity. Will there be any charge for long term use of the building

Gloria - research statutes regarding meeting outside of township boundaries

Gloria - ask Laurie to add the listening session on October 8th to the township website

Gloria - ask Laurie to add the address of the firehall to the township website notice indicating the move to the firehall and add the address to the October agenda