

Informational Meeting for the Townsend Town Hall Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 5pm

Tim Carlson, Architect from Martenson & Eisele, along with the town board were present to answer questions from the audience regarding the new town hall building project.

The location for the town hall is on School Street, where the former school was. A soil test was conducted, and no contamination was detected, and no water was hit.

The new building is 5200 square feet and will not need a sprinkler system. The building will have a firewall between the hall and the offices with a 2-hour fire barrier and fusible link closure.

The inside walls will be gypsum and plaster and 2x2 ceiling for acoustics. The shingles will be asphalt however there will be a bid for metal to compare pricing. There will no basement due to handicap accessible codes. The cost of the parking lot is included in the original projections.

The great room will be 50x50. The current hall is 40x50. The original cost estimate is \$1.4 million, but with today's market, the board is suggesting a budget of \$1.9 million. This would equate to \$35.00/hundred thousand on property taxes. There would be no effect on property value.

There is no opportunity to update the current town hall. The septic was condemned 5 years ago and cannot be relocated. The current holding tanks are on Railroad and state highway property. The Fire/Highway Department septic is separate and cannot be attached to. The current fire station is 22 years old, and repairs and updates are being scheduled.

There is no opportunity to install sewer and water. That would be extremely expensive at this time.

All tables and chairs and some of the office furniture will be transferred to the new building

VanCamp stated that a party has shown interest in removing the existing building and the town has received a bid for demolition of \$5000.00. The current location would be turned into parking with no bathrooms.

Roger Wight has been part of the construction team for many years. He reiterated that the current building has served it purpose, but the repairs and constraints warrant the new location and building.

VanCamp and the team will be pursuing any and all grant opportunities available if the project passes. This would include Focus on Energy, USDA , and Department of Public Land Grants.

A referendum would've cost over \$12,000.00 and would have been advisory only. A meeting of the electors is a binding vote (per state statutes) and will be held in May 2022.

Linda Ziegler, Clerk