

Proposed New Town Hall

Last Update 5/21/2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: How long has the Town Hall Project been discussed?

A: The town board has been discussing rehabbing or replacing the town hall for the past 15 years. During that time there have been significant costly repairs that can not keep up with the overall decline of the 116-year-old building. The town hall was a school house built in 1903. It was purchased by the town in 1985 for municipal use, while barely able to function to accommodate government functions. The building has inadequate storage facilities for records, no space for staff support, and does not meet the state standards required to operate a police department. Meanwhile the infrastructure of the building, including heating, plumbing, black mold, asbestos, etc. is degrading, continually making this building a hazard. ADA Compliance is minimal, but non-existent in the Courtroom or bathrooms. With approval at a properly noticed town meeting, the Town Board asked Zimmerman Architectural Studios in the Fall of 2018 to evaluate the building. Their Needs Analysis Report submitted for review on March 8, 2019 pointed out that the significant need to overhaul the building for safety and function would be far more costly than to replace it. This hard copy report has been available at the town hall since this review was presented. It is also available on the Town's website: <townofeasttroy.com>

Since this report was submitted by Zimmerman Architects, the Town Board has determined a schedule to research and implement a plan to replace the old town hall with a new one. This plan has been carefully and conscientiously carried out with proper public notice and public input where possible during the past 11 months. There is further planning and discussion about this project and it will continue to be included in public town meetings where citizens are encouraged to participate.

Q: Who authorized the Town to proceed with the new Town Hall project?

A: The town citizens did at the duly noticed State mandated 2019 Annual Meeting. The official notice and agenda were published in the newspaper 3 consecutive weeks and posted at other required locations.

Q: The new Town Hall project came out of nowhere, recent statements... "First I heard of it."

A: This has been no secret. It has been on agendas 12 times. In addition to the 2019 Annual Meeting, there were 10 duly noticed meetings with the architect. I mentioned it at every meeting I was asked to attend or speak. Plans were on display during the 2020 Spring Primary Election.

Q: What is the Town's approach to project development for the new Town Hall?

A: The Town Board has taken a very structured, deliberate and measured approach to the Project.

1. Perform a municipal needs analysis report.
2. Develop plans, specifications and estimates with the architect, staff, public attendees and Board

to a high degree of accuracy. Staff includes all employees, Police Chief, Clerk-Treasurer and Judge.

3. Public input and feedback, revisions.
4. Soft cost verification (in addition to bid costs).
5. Go, No Go Decision & Financing.
6. Bid, build, move in, demolish old building & finish site.

Q: How much taxpayer money has been spent on the Project to date?

A: \$0-None. The original Needs Assessment Study was paid for by Impact Fees designated for Police Facilities and the architectural fees, soil testing, survey and well and septic inspections were paid for with Landfill Funds. No town taxpayer money will be spent until the process is completed on #3 & #4 listed in previous question.

Q: What is all the nonsense showing up on social media regarding the project?

A: Just that, nonsense. When people don't have all the facts, they draw their own conclusions and pass them off as the truth. That is a dangerous game being played over the internet.

The current project status is at the Public Input and Feedback stage. Soft Cost Verification continues. The Board is carefully weighing the needs of the citizens while facing the ongoing degradation of the current Town Hall. The overall schedule has been affected, in doubt and on hold since the onset of the recently overturned "Safer at Home" Order that was instituted in response to COVID-19.

Please submit a request regarding any other questions you may have about the Town Hall Building Project to Town Chairman Joe Klarkowski at ijklarkowski@townofeasttroy.com . We will add to the list as soon as possible.