

### **Special Meeting on Fire Station #1**

Those attending a special meeting of the Sylvania Township trustees were among the first to see a drawing of a proposed two-story fire station, with clean lines and a red brick facade, which may replace the current fire station in downtown Sylvania.

John Zeitler, township administrator, said that of the \$8.5 million in bonds earmarked for fire station construction and remodeling, the township has a balance remaining of \$1.93 million. He noted that the township's general fund has \$200,000 additional meant for land acquisition for a new station.

If a new fire station No. 1 is built to replace the current structure at 6633 Monroe St., those funds could also be used for construction purposes.

The township has completed the construction of two fire stations and the remodeling of another with money approved by voters in 2008.

The drawing of the proposed new station is preliminary, according to Joe Vetter, of the Vetter Design Group, the architect chosen for the project. Because of the historic nature of the neighborhood and the downtown, Mr. Vetter said the proposed station will be constructed with cast stone and a brick veneer.

Kevin Haddad, trustee, said he doesn't think the project can be accomplished within the budget, citing the \$1.5 million cost for a two-bay station and that the new station will have three bays.

John Jennewine, chairman of the trustees, said that all of the estimates and documentation he has seen shows that the project can be accomplished, "on budget and on time." He did acknowledge that unforeseen circumstances can always occur during construction, but based on everything he's seen at this point the project can be accomplished.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Kowalski said the preliminary plans for a new station meet the needs of the department and that he's pleased with the design. The chief is preparing plans to have firefighters and equipment available to respond to alarms between the times the current building is demolished and the new station is ready for occupancy.

In response to a question from a member of the audience, Mr. Zeitler said there is a deadline of March 2013 for the township to utilize the funds authorized by the 2008 election. He said he has discussed the issue with the township's bond attorneys and has been assured that if a project is underway, that deadline is automatically extended without any penalty.

Bill Sanford, in his capacity as safety director of the city of Sylvania, read a letter of support for the Township's plan to construct a new station on the site of the current one.

Trustees will likely vote on the issue later this month.