

Police station

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ing vents in the current public safety building at the airport. He said the building has a re-occurring moisture problem.

On March 28, Cyrus, an environmental firm, performed an air-quality investigation of the public safety building due to complaints from employees, Voll said. He said 16 aerosol samples were collected with 12 showing results considered to be of concern warranting further investigation and/or corrective action.

Voll said the township has performed mold remediation in the building five times.

"As you can see, obviously we've been working in a building that's needed great repair for some time now," Mastriana said.

He said the public safety building's remote location from Township Hall is an inconvenience. Mastriana said the police station's location in the back of an airport offers poor public access.

"It's off the beaten path," he



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Manager Mike Voll explains the steps taken to try to remediate the mold problems at the public safety building at the Cape May Airport.

said. "It's not really accessible to most of the public on a regular basis, especially somebody coming to and from the court systems that use public transportation."

Most of the township's year-round population lives in Villas and North Cape May, which is also the area where most of the township's illegal drug problems are located, Mastriana said.

"A new facility places the agency closer to those areas of concern," he said.

Voll said the new police building would be built with no tax increase to residents. He said the township could bond as much as \$29 million in 2015 without a tax increase. Architect Dan Shousky said the estimated cost of the new building would be \$4 million.

"Understand that building

is 75 years old now and we've spent a lot of money in that building," he said of the current public safety building.

Shousky said it does not meet essential building codes.

Voll said the Police Department deserves a better building. He said he received a report Sept. 3 from the county indicating it had an interest in placing the office of emergency management and central dispatch in the public safety building at the airport.

Voll said the report issued by the county had "many unknowns, some inaccuracies."

He said the cost to renovate the public safety building was not included in the report. Voll asked how much of the building would be left for Lower Township police.

Shousky said the report issued by the county about the current public safety building "pretty much confirms" there was no method to determine how the building was designed. He said it was impossible to determine the design of the foundation.

Neville said the county offered the report at the 11th hour, the Friday before the Monday meeting. He said the report stated the public safety building's roof, wood framing and plywood decking were only inspected where heat and air conditioning units penetrated the roof.

During public comment, North Cape May resident Jessie Matsinger asked where the bureau of fire safety and Lower Township Rescue Squad would be located if police were moved to Villas. Voll said he would request those two entities remain at the public safety building.

Jackie Henderson, a Republican former township councilman, questioned Shousky's estimate of \$200 per square foot to construct a new police station. He said the building would be basic without items such as stone flooring or "golden toilet fixtures."

Erma resident Melissa Roy asked if it would make the most sense to utilize tax dollars to put more police officers on the street "as opposed to putting so

much money into a building." She suggested repairs be made to the public safety building.

Voll said three new officers to be hired were attending police academy. Mastriana said the Lower Township Police Department has 40 officers including the three in the academy.

Beck said having the police station in Villas would deter crime in that area.

Villas resident Johnnie Walker, an independent candidate for the Ward One council seat, presented council with a petition of more than 500 signatures of residents who wanted the police station moved to Villas.

Former Republican councilman Stig Blomqvist suggested the issue be placed on a ballot as a voter referendum. Beck said moving the police station has been discussed in open forums for a dozen years.

He said his team of independents ran on a campaign two years ago to build a new police station.

"That's the ultimate referendum right there, isn't it," Beck said.

Promotions

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because this looks like padding the bill. I recommended that we wait one month until the elections are over."

"These people have done jobs at promotional positions without compensation and are being compensated for what they are entitled," said Thomas Frisoli, vice chairman and acting chairman.

The proposed budget for 2015 was presented by Chief Financial Officer Steven Testa. He stated that expenses for 2014 were lower than the previous year.

He said sewer budget total

revenues were \$4,995,076. Operating expenses decreased for a net of \$193,323. With the addition of \$200,000 from the capital fund, a budget increase of \$934,000 for 2015 is proposed. Testa described it as a modest increase.

The increase will allow for funding for replacement pipes for Schellengers Landing and a new sewer vacuum truck, he said.

Water services showed total revenues of \$3,478,068. A decrease in operating expenses and \$227,000 from the capital fund added to the operating fund will increase the budget by 1 percent. The rehabbing of well houses, painting of a storage tank and replacement of vehicles are planned.

"What happens to this budget if the first week in January the MUA is dissolved?" Sparks asked.

Solicitor Jeff Barnes and Testa said there probably would not be a problem unless the township increased the budget.

The commissioners approved the proposed budget, which will now go to the state

for approval.

Destruction of fire hydrants is getting more common, according to Superintendent and acting Director Craig Loper. Every month at least one is replaced because of a motor vehicle accident, he said. The latest one was in front of the Townbank firehouse.

"The crew is getting really good at replacing hydrants quickly," Loper said.

Loper presented the engineer's report in the absence of Chris Eaton of Remington Vernick & Walberg Engineers. The report stated paving of Bay Drive and side streets where the water main trenches were not paved over correctly has been completed to everyone's satisfaction.

Commissioner Steve Sheftz recapped the history of water main projects. He said the most recent restoration work on Bay Drive and side streets was arranged by the LTMUA and covered 5.2 miles. The contractor did it in a week, Sheftz said. He questioned how long the township would take to restore .9 miles of

Country Club Road.

Two residents of Miami Avenue East spoke during public comment. The residents wanted to know why they have to live with unsafe water and when they could expect water service. They said they feel they have not gotten answers from calling the LTMUA, only some rude treatment.

The residents stated trenches were dug and later filled in. They said they thought pipes were put in the ground and later pulled out. Loper said when it was found that DEP permits were not received for that area, work had to stop and the pipes stored on the ground were taken back to the yard. They were never laid in the ground, said Loper, and the trenches were filled in and paved over so that traffic would move normally.

The residents asked who was responsible for the error and how much it cost to fill the trenches. Loper said that it was an error of the executive director at that time when filing the application. The cost of filling the trenches was about \$20,000, he estimated. He added that the permits will be received with the new permits for the East Villas project and the water supply will probably be available in one to two years.

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