Lower Twp. moves forward on police station

By JACK FICTOR
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council agreed Monday to hire an architect to produce a design for a new police station to be constructed near the current facility on Township Road.

In 2011, the township rejected the plan presented by Villas to a 10,000-square-foot building for a new police station and, Township Manager Mike West estimated, the price of construction of a new building at $5 million, plus a possible additional $500,000 for site prep work.

He supported a bond ordinance to finance the construc- tion to be introduced at council’s next meeting, but Republicans Councilman Tom Conrad and Erik Stempong stated they were not convinced the township could ever get new police stations before they were prepared to vote on a bond ordinance. "I had questions," West admitted. "The 10,000 square feet isn’t much, but there are still many other numbers, net estimates." West said he could not give an exact answer on costs until the ordinance received estimates.

Conrad said he also had questions about how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building. "They told us at a meeting of council in the fall of 2011 that former police chief Brian Marker asked him to form a committee with Chief William Mastriana to review police head- quarters back to Villas. He wanted the exact cost of a site to be connected with the (county) Emergency Operations Center. They go hand-in-hand," he said.

Locating a central dispatch center in the emergency management office in the EOC may mean taking part of the space from the library.

ERMA — The storied life of Dr. Ralph W.E. Cox will be auctioned off by Bonham’s Auction House at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Airshow Museum at the Cape May County Airport. Cox died at the age of 97 in 2012. After giving up a career as a dentist in 1970, he started United States Overseas Airlines at the Cape May County Airport. The airline transported military personnel for the four corners of the globe and employed 1,000 people.

The airline came to a screeching halt when it lost its government contracts in 1977. While flying around the world, it was common to find him staying inside the hangar currently housing the museum. "He said, 'More than 100 years of antiques and artifacts, ranging in all sizes and prices'," said Pagliughi.

By OLYN KELLEY
Cape May Star and Wave

The joint dispatch center has been a success since it opened in 1995, the township manager said Tuesday.

In 1995, the township moved the police station from the old Indian Shores library on Mechanic Street. However, efforts to get a central dispatch center in the EDIC may mean taking part of the space from the library.

Conrad said the current public safety building "is a good design for a new building. It worked for most of the time they were a police department and they haven't been," Conrad said. "We still need more numbers, net estimates." Conrad said he also had questions about how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building. "We need to know for sure how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building," he said. "The 10,000 square feet isn’t much, but there are still many other numbers, net estimates." Conrad said he also had questions about how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building.

Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana said the committee looked at the current public safety building for expansion, but the committee found it was not possible. "We need to know for sure how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building," he said. "We need to know for sure how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building," he said.

By OLYN KELLEY
Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township may have a chance to vote in September on whether Cape May should be allowed to continue from the School District.

Cape May Mayor John D’Agostino said the School Board Market asked him to form a committee with Capt. Thomas O’Keefe to review the public safety building and consider moving police head- quarters to either the current public safety building or to other options in the table.

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