

How much is this costing? *The bid price for the building was \$2,111,000. There have been several cost overruns due to some bad soil conditions and the requirement from the building department for a fire suppression sprinkler system. These two items alone cost \$240,000 additional.*

Are there people staffing the fire station around the clock? *Our station staffing has been an evolution from the pure volunteer days. We started to staff the station during the daytime hours in June of 1994 due to not having enough volunteers available. The station staffing hours has increased through the years. In 2000 we started to offer 24 hour a day staffing. Currently of our 27 staff members, 18 do not live in our township.*

Why is the building so big? *What makes the building look so large is the fact that we put a 4th bay on the apparatus room. The building is actually smaller North to South than the existing building. There is a Community Room on the East side where the Township Trustees will hold their meetings and the fiscal officer will be moving to the new building. The private living quarters are on the second floor. There are two dorms with 3 beds, a living room, bathroom, and locker room upstairs to accommodate the 27 staff that serves you. The hose/training tower is 4 stories tall. We do not have any training components in our current building. ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluates municipal fire departments every 15 years, and is due to revisit us in 2012. We are hoping to lower all fire insurance rates after the next evaluation. This time we will get FULL credit for a training tower which will greatly impact our overall score which will hopefully reduce your fire insurance costs.*

What will be different with this building?

This building will have specific space for the different building functions. For example, our current classroom is being used as an office, storage of EMS supplies, and our sleeping quarters. The new building will enable us to have these areas separate. The new building is fully ADA compliant and meets all code requirements. The township Fiscal Officer is going to move into this building. There will also be an EMS walk in room. If you are not feeling well or just want your blood pressure checked, we will be able to offer some seclusion and not make your private information public to others that may be in the area near you.

Can the public use it?

Non profit township based organizations (scouts, Suffield League, Historical Society, baseball/football sign ups to name a few) can use the community room free of any charge. There has been discussion about moving a voting precinct or two to this building at some point in the future.

What is wrong with the old building?

The current building was built in 1970 and occupied in 1971. Its intent and purpose was to house the townships fire equipment. They moved into the building with only 4 trucks. There was no plan to staff the building with personnel during the day or night. One bed was in the building but there was no appreciable office or storage space available. The rapid acceleration of EMS services to our community necessitated storage space for supplies. We have simply out grown our building! We are currently storing our tables and chairs in the town hall, and spare equipment, parts, tires, educational supplies, and training props in the original fire station.

Why not fix and enlarge the old building?

Actually, this was exactly our original intent. Due to Rootstown Twp and the City of Kent being happy with the architect that did their buildings, we contacted Bob Houser from Moody Nolan in Columbus to talk to us. He performed a needs assessment for our organization and facility. He also closely inspected the building and all of its systems, like electric, plumbing, heating/cooling and the masonry. There is no insulation in the existing building, the electric system is undersized for the potential needs, the septic system needed to be replaced, and the heating/cooling system was not sufficient. We did not meet ADA requirements and we did not provide proper living arrangements for those that staff the fire station. It was also determined that the hose tower is leaning slightly to the west and would have to come down and be rebuilt. It was also noted that the building was being painted every 2 years due to water infiltration thru the block that kept the paint from adhering properly. At the end of the analysis, it was determined that most of the walls would need to be torn down, the existing roof removed, the north and south wing additions removed, and a 4th bay and office area added to the west. Pretty much just 3 walls would have been remaining and it would have taken longer to build the building. Yes we could have fixed the original building but would have only saved a projected \$300,000 and we would have still had many components of a 40 year old building when it was done. We have noted that whatever happened, it needed to look good, and not look like a building that had been added on to several times.

What are the projected utility costs for this building?

We have asked that question! While we have not been able to get a solid number, we have been assured that the utility cost per square foot will take a nose dive. There are many energy efficient components (heat, cooling, and lighting) that have been designed and engineered in the new facility.

Is anything being salvaged from the existing building?

Yes! ALL of the furniture is being re-used along with the washer, dryer, and hose tower hoist. Many bulletin boards and a few of the marker boards will be re-used in the new building. By contract, after we vacate the existing bldg, it becomes the property of the demo contractor. The demo contractor is planning a silent auction to sell the remaining items.

When can I see the new place?

A community open house and building dedication is planned for the first part of November. After the open house date, we will gladly give a tour of the new community facility between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.