



MOUNT HOREB AREA PUBLIC SAFETY

November 8, 2016 Referendum • Please Vote!
— FIRE | EMS | POLICE —

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we need a new public safety building?

Addressing the deficiencies at the current Fire Station and Police Station is long overdue. Both the Police and Fire Stations are no longer adequate to accommodate both the operational and space needs of the public safety personnel. Both buildings have exceeded the life expectancy, are deteriorating, and do not meet State and Federal Codes. The Fire Department is currently operating out of four additional buildings in the downtown area.

What are the advantages of a joint public safety building?

Creation of a joint Public Safety Building has many advantages. There is savings in the initial construction and land costs of over \$1.2 million for each department. Shared spaces, which each department would need in individual buildings, include public entryways, lobby, restrooms, training room, conference room and exercise room. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems can also be combined, significantly reducing the long-term maintenance costs.

Where will the new Public Safety Building be located?

No land has been purchased for the proposed project. The Fire Department has an option to purchase a 4.3 acre site on Blue Mounds Street.

Why was the site on Blue Mounds Street selected?

An extensive evaluation of sites located in the Village of Mount Horeb was completed over the past three years. There were a minimal number of parcels that were suitable in size, location, and topography. The minimum site size for a combined building is 3 acres. The proposed joint building was laid over the site to ensure the buildable space was adequate. The location took into account response of volunteers to the station as well as response times to the entire 132 square mile fire department territory covering two villages and six townships.

Who will be building the Joint Public Safety Building?

A general contractor will be chosen through a pre-qualification and competitive bidding process in 2017 after Bray Architects completes a schematic design and final construction documents.

What is the cost of the new Public Safety Building?

The total cost proposed for the new Fire and EMS portion of the building is \$8.4 million. The Mount Horeb Police Department portion is estimated at \$6.1 million. The Village of Mount Horeb is assuming full cost for the Police Department portion of the building and the Police portion of the spaces shared by both departments. The Fire Department cost will be split based on equalized value in the same way MHAJFD requests the annual operating expenses now.

Has rehabilitation of the current buildings been considered?

Yes. The Fire Department feasibility study completed in 2013 included a facility assessment. "...an expansion or renovation to correct concerns outlined in the Space Needs Analysis section of this report will require upgrading the facility to meet current code requirements: including ADA considerations. Given the multiple grade levels within the building (which occurred due to site topography), the required modifications are not financially feasible. It is our recommendation that MHAJFD not consider allocating any funding for facility improvements other than those items in critical repair, or required to maintain current operations." Prices obtained by contractors to repair the current station and add sleeping rooms above the current meeting room are estimated at \$2.8 million. This does not solve our space needs and our Intern Program would need to remain in the Main Street house.

How was the size of the proposed building determined?

Since 2007 the Fire Station Building Committee has been working on planning the space needed. The 2013 Feasibility Study determined a needed area of 36,393 square feet. The Committee has worked hard to cut that number to 24,813 square feet with 7,541 square feet shared with the Police Department. The Fire Department has outgrown the existing station and four additional filled spaces in the downtown area totaling 15,200 square feet. The Police Department completed a feasibility study in 2014 and has finalized space needs based on current and future needs.

What if this approval process for a new building does not pass?

Because of the approximate 5% annual increase in construction costs, if the referendum does not pass at the current amount we do not see much success in asking at a higher amount. The space needs for the Fire Department has been fine-tuned over of the last several years and we will be using the whole of the space in the proposed structure upon completion. There is no more cutting to be done on a building that would suit us for 40-50 years. Efforts will need to refocus on remodeling and repairing our current structure, continue to house the internship program in the Main Street house, and look to build an addition with sleeping rooms above our current meeting room. This addition would help with only one of our space needs, and would make our current meeting room smaller with required elevator and bathroom expansion.