

Township plans new highway buildings

By Larry Lough

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Dorr Township residents will have the chance to review and vote on plans to demolish the 6,000-square-foot highway garage and replace it with two buildings of about 10,000 combined square feet.

Highway Commissioner John Fuller said the township had saved enough to pay for the \$1.5 million demolition and construction without increasing taxes.

Project details will be presented at an annual town meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the Highway Operations center at 12322 Davis Road.

"We'll try to make it so people understand what we're trying to do," Fuller said.

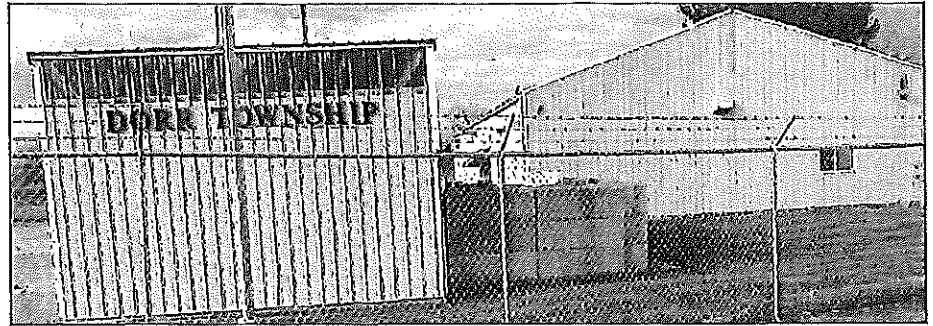
A two-hour public open house will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the site, where township residents can inspect the 50-year-old pole barn that will be replaced.

Work on the new buildings will begin if the project wins the vote of township residents at a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. Approval would get the architect to begin the pre-construction phase of planning, which would lead to accepting bids on the work.

New buildings 'all steel'

Fuller said the two newer buildings would finish the project that began in 2012, when three buildings were put up on the property.

One of the new buildings would house a mechanics bay in addition to office space, a locker room, and meeting area. The other would be



INDEPENDENT PHOTO BY LARRY LOUGH

Dorr Township Highway Operations, located at 12322 Davis Road, plans two new buildings to replace the current pole barn facility (in background) built before 1970.

for parking vehicles and equipment, including dump trucks, bucket truck, and utility vehicles, as well as a wood chipper and snow plows, Fuller said.

In a news release Friday morning, township officials said the new buildings would provide "energy efficient maintenance and storage for vehicles as well as meeting and office space for Highway Department employees."

Fuller said the current large pole barn has wooden supports subject to rot, and reported patches have been made to garage doors and ceilings in the drafty building, which was constructed before 1970. The ceiling of the old building also is too low to allow maintenance of vehicles, so trucks are shuttled to newer buildings for repair and service.

While the two newer buildings also will be pole barns, "They're different," Fuller said. "They're all steel."

According to the township website, two buildings of 4,995 square feet each will replace the aging pole barn. By dividing into two buildings, the

township will realize "significant savings" by not having to install a sprinkler system, which law requires of buildings that are 5,000 square feet or larger.

Highways have own tax rate

Township Highway Operations supports all roads and bridges in the township that are not within incorporated municipalities, such as Woodstock, Crystal Lake, and Lakewood, Fuller said. That includes maintaining 65 lane miles of road in McHenry County bordering Seneca, Grafton, Nunda, and Greenwood townships.

The highway district is a separate taxing unit through its own line item on property tax bills.

More details and frequently asked questions can be found on the Dorr Township website, DorrTownship.com.

Residents may also call the Dorr supervisor, Sue Brokaw, at 815-338-0125, or email her at sue@dortownship.com. Fuller can be reached at 815-338-1060 or highway@dortownship.com.