

Letter to the Editor: Lima Township Ad Hoc Building Committee Build a Place to be Proud of

Dear Editor:

First and foremost in the minds of the original people on the committee eight years ago, the idea was to check the feasibility of using, or repairing of the building, Township Hall and offices. The Historic value was not cast aside and it isn't today.

As head of the Committee, I asked the builders about the possibility of joining the old building to new offices. I brought this back to the Committee.

The question was why would you destroy the old building by adding a new structure to it? Two builders said they would look at workable prints, when they were available. It would no longer be of historic value and here's why. Using good common sense, the old building would be moved off the spot it now resides on, to the other place on the same lot.

The historic value of the old building would be destroyed by the many updates it would need. Some to be named but far from all -- windows, all siding, restrooms and take off complete north end (add on), basement doors, chimney, etc. Adding on the steeple would be much more costly because the inside ceiling has been dropped about 18 inches.

The renovation cost for moving and updating the old building has not been thoroughly investigated because of the total uncertainty in it. This type of work -- rebuilding any old building and moving could run much more in cost than new -- check with any builder in the area.

The new complex, or offices and hall will remain on the same site -- to complete the small village of buildings. The fire hall was once a Shell Service Station, which I managed in the late '50's. The building was a complete rebuild and does not resemble the station.

Across the road was an antique shop and is now rebuilt to make a home for physical fitness not recognizable as Don Johnson Antiques. Harold and Mary Ann Gracey's grocery shop and living quarters were in the old Inter Urban Station -- a good brick and stone building -- now offices.

Across the road, the school was turned into a home with somewhat of a changed look. Smith's Garage and Wrecker Service was once a Mobile Gas Station and grocery store run by the Miller Family. Yes, I and most of the Committee believe in building something for the next 50 years to complement the township and the Lima Community.

Contractors do believe it could be rebuilt (tower and all), just give us a lot of leeway on the cost. The old building is not large enough for two precincts to vote, and as state law says “keep apart.” Community meetings, which the township always allows, are sometimes crowded. Restrooms are important, but this is not the problem. (What hall in today’s work does not have A.C.!)

And as to the poorly designed survey, it was only put out to determine if Lima Township residents would consider any type of construction or reconstruct for new offices of Township Hall. It was designed to get questions to us as to what they would like to see in the township of Lima. It did just that – 66 percent wanted all new, 5 percent didn’t care, 5 percent didn’t want any money spent for anything, 19 percent wanted to save the old building and add on, and 5 percent had unexplainable answers.

Large expenditures for sure, but don’t forget old combined with new or all new will not vary in price. The new construction cost is set, within overruns of not more than a set amount, example 10 percent.

Old added to new is cost uneven or as one of the lifetime farmers in the area said, “It was a money pit.”

Edwin Greenleaf

Chair Building Committee

P.S. Please do come to the Township Board Meeting on May 8, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Lima Township Hall.