



STERLING HEIGHTS
**"Sterling
Pride Month"
becoming a
new tradition**

Page » A4



SHELBY TOWNSHIP
**Design, build
team selected
for Fire Station
No. 5 project**

Page » A8

MIPREPZONE

Your Internet source for high school sports coverage.
Visit MIPrepZone.com.

THE SOURCE

For Shelby Township, Sterling Heights, Romeo, Utica and Washington Township



SEAN DELANEY – THE SOURCE

Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski and Supervisor Richard Stathakis review site plans for Fire Station No. 5, which will be constructed on this 4-acre parcel located on the east side of Schoenherr Road, north of 21 Mile Road.

Design, build team selected for Fire Station No. 5 project

By SEAN DELANEY

sean.delaney@advisorsource.com; @sdelaney81

A process that began more than 10 years ago took a major step forward on April 5 as the Board of Trustees unanimously approved Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski's request to hire the team of Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc. and Wing Construction Inc. to complete the first phase of a project to design and build a new fire station on Schoenherr Road, north of 21 Mile Road.

"In 2005 the Fire Department and the Board

of Trustees identified the future need of a fifth station in the southeast portion of the township, and this is the end result of a lot of work from that point," Township Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. "It's been a long time in the works, but, because of all of that work, we will have this new station fully operational and staffed and while maintaining annual budget surpluses without any need to ask for more money from the taxpayers."

Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc. and Wing Construction Inc. – both

Fire station

FROM PAGE A8

based in Shelby Township - were one of four teams Swinkowski and Township Engineer Fazal Khan interviewed after sending out a request for qualification in December 2015.

"We wanted to have full control of this project at each step to ensure it meets our specific needs, so we went out for a request for qualification, not a request for proposal," Swinkowski said. "We wanted a team that was qualified to do the job and not just be the low bid. Station No. 5 will serve our taxpayers for more than 50 years, and we want a building that will meet our needs and fit into the archi-

ture of the area."

According to township officials, the approval of the design phase of the process grants the team from Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc. and Wing Construction Inc. the opportunity to develop a schematic design, a topographical survey, soil borings, geotechnical engineering and a tree survey at a cost not to exceed \$43,100.

Once the schematic design is completed, the team will then proceed with the second part of the design phase and complete the construction documents and traffic engineering study at a cost not to exceed \$43,300.

Upon completion of the design phase, Swinkowski will seek board approval for construction costs, which will be preceded by a pre-

sentation of the site plan to the Planning Commission. Swinkowski estimates the total project to cost approximately \$1.9 million and hopes to have the final phase presented to the board this summer.

"The reason we wanted multiple phases was transparency and discretion," Treasurer Michael Flynn said. "When you start talking about a \$2 million expense, there is no problem with taking your time and making sure all options are explored and the end result is exactly what you want and need."

The 4-acre site, located on the east side of Schoenherr Road, north of 21 Mile Road, was purchased by the township in 2012. Funds for purchase of the property, as well as the funds for the de-

sign phase and construction, come from the Fire Department's capital improvement fund.

"The most amazing part of this process is that, because of the financial foresight and expertise of Chief Swinkowski, we will have a new, fully equipped and staffed fire station with no impact on the Fire Department's annual budget and with no need for more taxes," Stathakis said. "There are no loans. There is no borrowing. It's all cash. And it's all because of the leadership of Chief Swinkowski and the good work of our firefighters."

Pending the design and construction phases and board approval, Swinkowski said he would like to see Fire Station No. 5 in operation by the end of 2016.