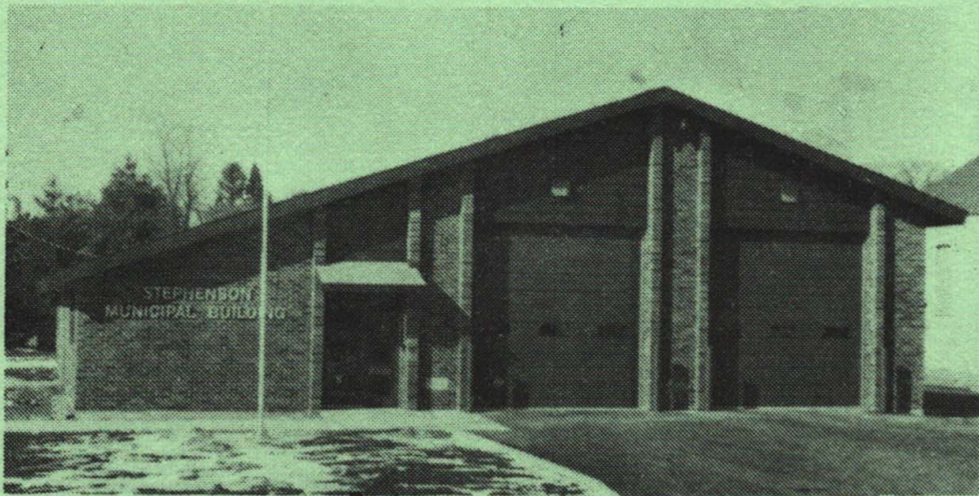


Stephenson Municipal Building



1983

Need For A Building

The need for a municipal building which would house the city's fire department as well as provide a location for the city's records and room for the transaction of the city's business has long been recognized.

The engine house that has been in use was built in 1899 and has been moved twice. It was first moved from a location on the railway right-of-way to a location on the Little Cedar River on Mill Street in 1925. Then, in 1947, the building was moved to its present location and an addition was put on it.

The Council believes they have met a long-felt need without a direct cost to the taxpayers of the city with the construction of this building.

Planning

In December of 1982, the Council first discussed a proposed building and building site. There was a unanimous concensus that the city should proceed with the planning.

At a subsequent meeting, the Council agreed that Louis Barone of the firm of Architects Group Limited would be hired. The city's extremely favorable experience with Mr. Barone when he worked with the Housing Commission in the construction of our Senior Citizens' Housing complex was the deciding factor in that decision.

The Council worked as a committee of the

whole so all members had an opportunity to make their contribution in the planning. As is often the case in a building project, all ideas offered could not be incorporated in the building. However, every consideration was given to providing adequate space for training and/or the activities of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Financing

From the very beginning it was the Council's decision that the building would be financed with the interest income the city received on its investments. The exact dollar amount would not be determined until plans were drawn and bids let.

However, the Council knew that the interest income for the years of 1979-1980-1981-1982 and 1983 would approximate \$180,000. By using these funds, the city would not be expending funds received from taxes, revenue sharing or utility income. It would preserve investments, the income from which could make possible other capital investments at a future date.

The Building

Construction started in July 1983 and was completed in February 1984. The building houses a meeting room, storage rooms, men and women's toilets, an office and vault, a

fireman's room, and a garage large enough for four fire trucks. It occupies 4,908 sq. ft. and was built for a cost of \$152,388.

The basic building construction is a concrete floor slab on grade, 2x6 wood framed exterior walls with brick veneer, 2x4 wood framed interior partition walls, wood roof trusses, gypsum board with thin coat plaster finish on all walls and ceilings, prefinished aluminum fascia and soffit and siding, carpeting, vinyl asbestos tile, and epoxy floor finish in garage. The exterior is virtually maintenance free.

The building has been designed with energy conservation in mind and is reflected in the use of 12" of fiberglass batt insulation in the ceiling (R-38), 6" of fiberglass insulation and 2" rigid insulation in exterior garage walls (R-31), 6" fiberglass insulation and 1" rigid insulation in all other exterior walls (R-26), all aluminum windows triple-glazed thermal barrier. All glass in exterior doors and sidelights is insulating glass, and all exterior doors, including the garage doors, are insulated (R-12.1).

The Council believes this building will serve the city for many years without increasing budgetary allocations.

Volunteer Fire Department

One of the first actions that was taken by the people who were involved with the organization of the Village in 1899 was to organize a volunteer fire department.

Protecting property from loss by fire has been one of the important responsibilities of government. Stephenson, like so many other communities, has had many individuals who have given of their time and abilities without compensation.

The following letter expresses, we believe, the typical reaction of many of our citizens.

May 7, 1942

Dear Members of the Board,

A mere thanks does not express my gratitude for the splendid work done by the Village Fire Department and the many volunteers in the fire at the Journal office on April 16.

Not only was the building saved with a small loss, but hundreds of dollars worth of paper stock could have been ruined if extreme care had not been taken in the use of water.

Also, throughout the day, Mr. (Olin) Nelson kept a close check and a hose in readiness in case the fire had not been extinguished.

Stephenson is not only a nice place to live but has also an excellent fire department service.

Kindly accept my sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

Genevieve F. Woessner

In 1954, action was taken to have a better trained and organized department. Fire Chief William Sporrer of Menominee gave of his time

and training and assisted the Stephenson Volunteer Department with its early organization problems.

Of the twenty-two charter members of that group, five are still members of the present department.

Today the department has twenty-eight members. A list of the present membership follows. However, there are many individuals in our community who are not members as of this time who gave many years of community service in the volunteer department.

James Gardiner, Chief

Carmen Anderson, Assistant Chief

Harold Anderson, Assistant Chief

Lowell Bengry, Assistant Chief

James Beaudoin

Timothy Chaney

Richard Chevalier

Herbert Corey

Allan Dahl

Nick Diehm

John Doboy

Patrick Francour

Thomas Hood

William Johnson

David Leiphart

Michael Martin

John Mellinger

Dennis Morton

James Noasconi

Dennis Palzewicz

John Palzewicz

William Rasner

Scott Roubal

Albert Seanor

Thomas Tatrow

John Vretenar

Elton Westman

Clyde Thoune

Fire Chiefs Who Have Served

1899-1901	C.B. Marson
1901-1909	Jos. H. Marson
1909-1912	S. Horde
1912.....	Walter Esbrook
1925-1926	Henry DeMille
1926-1927	Ed Vassar
1927-1953	Olin Nelson
1953-1967	Elton Westman
1967-1982.....	James Beaudoin
1982.....	James Gardiner

City Council - 1983

Herbert W. Corey - Mayor
Donovan H. Diehm - Mayor Pro Tem
Harold C. Anderson
James Gardiner
Lowell Bengry
Hilman Hubbard
Richard Chevalier
Francis D. Menacher - Clerk

Architects

Architects Group Limited
Louis Barone and Dave Johnson

Contractors

Wickstrom Builders

James Beaudoin - Supt. PW Dept.

