



White Lake building plan moves forward

Feb. 24, 2012

The White Lake board of education has some important decisions in the next few weeks.

At its regular monthly session, the board received an outline of some key dates as it moves toward the spring ground-breaking for its \$3 million project to construct a central recreational center.

The project, similar to a commons, was approved by voters in November. It will include an exercise room that could be used as a community space, men's and women's locker rooms and restrooms, team locker rooms and an expansive new gymnasium. There will also be a concession area and remodeling to the existing shop and locker rooms.

At Thursday's session, engineer Doc Smith of EDS Builders Inc., the project's construction manager, said bids will be open on March 1, with a special board meeting slated for 12 days later to act on the proposals.

According to District Administrator Bill Fisher, the district also has to iron out some issues with the village of White Lake. A recent survey discovered that about 10 feet of the current school gymnasium is located on village land, so some property transfers are necessary. The village board is expected to act on that request on April 10.

Fisher said all the work is moving toward a spring ground-breaking, with hopes that the new facility will be ready for the community by the next basketball season.

In several related matters, the board voted to establish a task force to study the creation of a school-community library, which may consolidate the current district facility and the small library now located in the village.

"We are already to construct a school-community recreation facility," Fisher said. "This would be in that same spirit of the school and town working together to meet everyone's needs."

The board is also exploring hiring a school/community activities director who would coordinate the various programs under consideration.

Fisher also updated the panel on the unique log donation program, with community members providing logs to Robbins Flooring for use in the new gymnasium floor.

To date, 25 property owners have donated logs that will be milled by Robbins Flooring in White Lake for use in the school addition.

Fisher said the goal is 80 cords of logs and "it looks like we are going to get there."

In other matters, the board:

—received an update on student achievement tests.

—heard was Fisher termed "an excellent presentation" by new art teacher Cheryl Lipori.

—and discussed the ongoing contest to design a new Laker logo.