

COMMENTS AND PUBLICITY

August 13, 2024

Comments

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY	Tell us how the library is doing. Turn this card in at the library or by mail.
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Name:	
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Branch District Library August 13, 2024

Publicity

The Daily Reporter, August 13, 2024, pg. 1A, 3A

Work to begin on Algansee **Township Hall**

Jennings

Coldwater Daily Reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

ALGANSEE TWP. - Work will begin in the next weeks on a new hall for Algansee Township after two years of debate and planning.

The board approved a construction contract with JKG Construction of Coldwater on Aug. 5 to build an

80-foot-by-40-foot new stand-alone hall to replace the current historic hall just to the south.

Trustee Rod Bassage said the hall will be similar to the new Bethel Township hall on Snow Prairie Road. "Same construction, same contractor. The interior will be different (with more office space)," he said.

Retiring township supervisor Russ Jennings said the cost is \$326,000, with \$210,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act. "The rest will come from our general funds," he said.

Bassage said the bid accepted was just over \$100 a square foot, lower than recent and architect estimates. "We got a really good deal."

With the new septic system, the township board

See HALL, Page 3A

Hall

Continued from Page 1A

will build the new town-ship hall in the current parking lot on 378 S. Ray-Quincy Road.

The township agreed to buy a half-acre to the north, but Paul Schilling donated the property and sold it for \$1.

Rather than tear down the historic 1877 town hall, the current building will become the Branch District Library — Algan-see Branch, which has been housed since 1938 in the 1880 Safford's Store two miles south.

Jennings said the li-brary, one of the most used in the county, out-grew that space years ago. Although the township

renovated the township building in 2008 to add offices, bathrooms, and storage, more renova-tions are needed.

The floors need to be stronger to hold books. Jennings said the District Library will contribute funds to help with reno-

vations.
The township board first discussed building a new hall at the location but decided to look at other options. The cur-



The new Algansee Township Hall will go up on the parking lot after the trees are removed. The township will convert the current hall into the Branch District Library – Algansee Branch. DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

rent space is not adequate for elections.

Former trustee John

Schilling offered land at

the northeast corner of Central and Ray-Quincy roads. but the board could not agree.

Algansee looked at using the former Branch County Animal Shelter Ray-Quincy

north of Fisher Road. which was damaged by fire in May 2015.

The cost of renovating exceeded the cost of building new at that time. Some township officials felt the location, a quarter mile off the road and on the north boundary of the township, was not satis-

factory.

A plan to add to the current building was im practical and cost more than a new structure.

Algansee officials ex pects to be in the new township hall after the first of the year.

Contact Don dReid@Gannett.com

Fair

This process is designed to teach those about raising livestock and mar-