



Security upgrades planned for police department

Funding secured through Tax Increment Financing

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Construction plans for the Miami Township Police Department and township administration building are the two-year culmination of careful planning and consideration. The Board of Trustees voted to approve new security upgrades and renovations at the Dec. 19, 2017, business meeting. The funding is being secured through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) that was created for areas around the Dayton Mall in 2005. The TIF allows the township to use tax dollars from increased property values within the mall area TIF to pay for public infrastructure improvements. The funds cannot be used for any other expenditures such as personnel, equipment and park maintenance. Simply put, it means this construction project does not affect our citizens' residential property taxes and does not dip into the general fund to make the police department more secure.

“We are so happy to be able to do much needed upgrades to our nationally accredited police department without using any general fund money,” Trustee Doug Barry said. “The upgrades will help the Miami Township Police Department be more efficient and give all officers the means to better serve the residents.”

Based on administrators' in-depth analysis of necessary building improvements, it was determined that several upgrades are needed to protect police officers and staff, and better serve the citizens.

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BWSC/Emerson was hired in March 2017 to help the department manage the project. A competitive bidding process was conducted, resulting in the hiring of Becker Construction, Inc. to do the necessary construction for \$474,368.00, plus a contingency of \$71,155, the total not to exceed \$545,523.00. Elements IV Interiors was selected during a competitive state procurement bid process for \$81,682.87, plus a \$12,252.00 contingency, not to exceed \$93,935.00, for furniture replacement.

The construction plan includes installation of more secure locking mechanisms for station doorways and the use of more secure construction materials in reception areas. It also includes a more ergonomic design within the office areas.

“Our new layout will allow police administration and officers to work closer together on the first floor to allow for better communication,” Capt. Russell Johnson said. “And that will result in better service to the community.”

While administrators will move to the first floor of operations, detectives will move to a more secure area on the second floor, allowing them better facilities in which to conduct sensitive and confidential interviews with residents and potential suspects.

“Citizens who come to speak with our investigators will have direct access to the second floor, so there will be no possibility that parties with conflicting interests will cross paths in our hallways,” Johnson said.

The property room and records section will also be made more secure and allow for easier access to evidence.

“In some cases, we are required to keep evidence indefinitely, so we must be certain that those items are kept properly secured. The upgrades will allow for better ventilation and heating to best preserve the contents.”

Most of the security upgrades are being made to the police department, but there will be some security upgrades made to the lobby area of the administration building as well, including security features that better protect staff in the reception area.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-January and should take approximately six months to complete.

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