

Town of Avon

Opera Block Update



To the Residents of Avon,

The Avon Town Board would like to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening with the Opera Block project that was approved in August of 2007.

The Town Board has made every attempt to ensure that both the Opera Block and State Bank of Avon buildings retain their historic attributes while at the same time incorporating the newest in technology and energy saving concepts. The Town Board has also continued to be diligent in applying for several grants that the state and federal government offer. Two months after the bond resolution passed, the Town was awarded the maximum amount of the 2007 EPF grant program, which was focused on Historic Buildings *with Theaters*. That amount was \$500,000. This year's 2008 EPF application is due Monday June 30th. This year one of the funding priorities is projects that promote sustainability by incorporating principles of energy conservation with a maximum award of \$600,000.

Construction documents and drawings were completed in early June, and are currently being reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SPHO) for compliance with historic building standards. This is a minor delay that is introduced whenever grants are approved. The town just received notification that just a few items need to be considered for inclusion, and a response is being drafted.

The town expects to have approvals by mid-July, with bids going out immediately after that. Bids are expected to be received back by mid-August. Construction is expected to begin in late August or early September and take 9 months to a year to complete.

The town has rented space at 57 Genesee Street (formerly Personality Scents) for their temporary offices. The move to this new location took place on Wednesday June 25th. The Town Court has been co-located with the Village Court in the Village office building at 74 Genesee Street.

The following is a timeline of the major activities:

2007

- August - Bond resolution passed.
- September - Whenever a bonding resolution is passed, the law requires a 30-day estoppel period in which the taxpaying public could issue a challenge to the vote. No funds can be expended.
- October - Negotiated with Bero Architecture PC of Rochester for Architectural & Engineering Services.
- Developed Inter-municipal agreement with the Village for cohabitating courts in Opera Block
- November - Started Design & Engineering activities.
- State announced that the Opera Block project had been awarded ½ million dollar grant for the refurbishment of this historic structure.

2008

- January - Contracted with an Environmental / Hazardous Material Survey firm to perform an analysis of the two buildings.. Study and report have been completed.
- February - Conducted a 'Green Technology' and LEEDS Certification study to appraise and recommend energy cost savings materials and methods to be incorporated into the renovation project.
- Began consideration of Geothermal Heating & Cooling for the two buildings.
- March - Experienced delays in the engineering due to the desire to install Geothermal wells which are to be located behind the Opera Block.
- May - The Town Board considered other Green Technology alternatives, but declined pursuing LEEDS Certification due to cost / benefit ratio. The Board applied to the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) for grants on geothermal credits.
- Town Board members Cole and Blye toured the City of Auburn's municipal offices which have been utilizing geothermal heating and cooling for 4 years, with excellent results..
- June - Construction documents were completed, and sent to SHPO for approval. Approval is expected by mid-July.

Anticipated events –

- July - Obtain approval from SHPO on Construction documents.
- Send out Bid Packages.
- August - Receive Bids / Award Contracts.
- September - Start Construction.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any of your town board members:

Supervisor David LeFeber - 226-3115 Deputy Supervisor Kelly Cole - 226-2068
Councilman Don Cook - 226-3441 Councilman Jim Blye - 226-6125
Councilman Tom Mairs - 226-9436

Looking for us?
Temporary Office Locations:

**Avon Town Hall
57 Genesee St.**

**Avon Town Court Offices
at the Village Hall,
74 Genesee St.**