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Forks Township supervisors take first steps toward construction of a \$3.2 million public works building

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By **TONY NAUROTH**

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FORKS TWP. | Township supervisors Thursday agreed to build a new public works building tentatively estimated to cost \$3.2 million.

There was no argument about the need for a new facility to house the trucks and other equipment for fixing roads and for doing the work to keep the township roads free of snow and well maintained.

The supervisors noted the project is in its early stages and no location has been set yet.

They agreed something is needed to replace the deteriorating structure on Frost Hollow Road that has been serving the township since 1954 when the population was about 5,000.

Today that number is up to more than 8,400, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Debate ensued at the township workshop before the supervisors' action meeting concerning where the building and equipment and the 10 public works employees would be located: on the 53-acre Remaly property on Newlins Road or on the Braden property next to the Braden Airport on Sullivan Trail.

Several residents from homeowners' associations worried about noise, environmental issues and other problems on the Remaly site.

Rick Petro, executive director of the 242-member Vista Estates Homeowners' Association, asked supervisors to "exhaust all other possibilities" before they make a decision.

Public Works Director Mark Roberts told the board environmental officials found the water in the current public works building was so polluted they recommended employees not even wash their hands in it.

"There's one toilet and one sink for 10 employees," Roberts said. "And drainage comes across the parking lot, through the salt storage house and into the creek."

He said the building is too small to work on the township's large trucks.

Getting the financing together, awarding a contract to an architect, choosing a contractor to build it and final approvals are still very far off, the supervisors said.

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