

Village of Suamico Fire Department
Fire Station #1 Replacement Facility Update

The Village of Suamico has been investigating, reviewing and planning the replacement of Fire Station #1 located at 1745 Riverside Drive in Vickery Village for the past 5 years. The existing facility was initially constructed in 1964, over 54 years ago. While it has been expanded and modified over the years, it is a cramped, outdated and marginal facility at best. As technology and equipment standards have changed, the facility has become less efficient, effective and operational. This current Fire Station #1 Facility along with Fire Station #2 construction in 1994 on White Pine Dr currently serve the Village of Suamico from a fire safety, fire prevention and firefighting perspective.

The village has secured another site at the intersection of West Deerfield Dr and Riverside Dr at a very attractive and affordable price from the Wisconsin DOT and working in conjunction with County Rescue is conducting a Space Needs Study to define optimum space needs for both the Village of Suamico Fire Department and County Rescue for both short term and long term operation.

While the Village of Suamico Fire Department serves the fire prevention, suppression and the firefighters needs of the village, County Rescue provides the emergency service and medical needs of the community at very affordable pricing, while providing exceptional services. The movement of the existing Fire Station #1 facility out of the Vickery Village Centre and its relocation to the new site at West Deerfield Ave and Riverside Dr will allow for better and more efficient service while providing better and safer traffic movements in the “Town Centre” of Vickery Village and its commercial venues, shops and restaurants. This will facilitate more and better development of the Vickery Village Area.

Once the Space Needs Study is completed, accepted and approved by the Village Board of the Village of Suamico, public informational meetings will be held for the residents and businesses of the village, so as to provide feedback, comments and suggestions for the ultimate final layout and spacial design of the new Fire Station #1. We have the opportunity to plan, design and construct a new Public Safety facility that will meet the current and future fire, emergency services and law enforcement needs of the village.

It is expected that the village will finance this new replacement facility thorough funds that are bonded and borrowed in 2019 and repaid through managed debt service payments that are more than offset by planned debt service reductions in 2020, 2022 and 2027.

The history of the Village of Suamico Fire Department, its facilities and some of the current facilities shortcomings are identified on the attached document.

Village of Suamico Fire Department Facilities History

The Suamico Fire Department was established in 1952. At that time the Fire trucks were kept at 1575 Riverside Dr which was owned by a member of the Department who had an extra storage facility to house the fire truck.

In 1955 the Town of Suamico broke ground on a community center located at 1745 Riverside Dr. Shortly thereafter the lone fire truck was moved from its location on Riverside Dr to a storage facility located at 1752 Riverside Dr., across the street from the new community center. Currently that building houses a working designer shop.

In 1964 the Town added garage space onto the Community center to hold the fire trucks. The addition has measurements of 28' wide by 58' long. In 1978 they added onto that with another structure measuring 33' wide by 58' long. This is still in use today.

With very rapid growth to the southern and western parts of the town, in 1994 a second fire station was built on the corner of Northwood Rd and White Pine Rd. That was designed with an apparatus bay and one office. It has a meeting room and a kitchen. The apparatus bay was designed for future expansion.

Inside the old community center, the Fire department added a wall to make office space, not only for the Fire Chief but also for the Brown County Sherriff's deputies that were assigned to Suamico. That was accomplished in 2001. That space is currently the Fire Chief's office and spare Gear room. The office that housed the Sherriff Deputies is used for the Inspector's, Fire Department officers and record keeping.

Currently at Fire Station 1, 1745 Riverside Dr., the building has outlived the Fire Department. Let's begin on the outside of the building. The apparatus bays were not designed for the modern day fire truck. The trucks are bigger and heavier than what the building can handle. That is evident by looking at the concrete aprons outside the garage doors. With the trucks entering and exiting, the aprons have failed. Parking for the responding Firefighters is almost impossible. With the success of the commercial businesses in the immediate vicinity, our firefighters find it difficult to park their vehicles to get the Fire trucks out the door.

Inside the apparatus bay, with the size of the trucks and the dimensions of the building, there is not enough room. Station 1 houses an Engine, a Heavy Rescue vehicle, a second Command vehicle, 2 brush trucks, a Tender (a truck that hauls water) and our vintage 1952 Parade truck. On the walls of the apparatus bays are lockers for the Firefighters to store their turnout gear. They have a difficult time putting on the gear due to the lack of space. Every two weeks firefighters do "truck checks" where they take everything out of the trucks, inspect it, run it, and make sure everything is in working order then replace it. In the warmer months, the extra apparatus can be pulled out to make room, in the colder months it is impossible.

The new proposed station would become a Public Safety building. It would house the current Station 1 apparatus and equipment, it would also house County Rescue Services which is currently contracted with the Village of Suamico to handle Medical Calls. Eventually, as the

Village continues to grow, it would also house the Brown County Sherriff deputies that are also contracted with the Village.

It is expected that public informational meetings will be held in late summer of 2018, where the Fire Station #1 Space Needs Study and its recommendation will be presented.