

School board OKs lease of property

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NEW HARTFORD - The **New Hartford** Board of Education Tuesday moved one step closer to a future building project when it agreed to lease property on Oxford Road to accommodate the **school** district's business offices.

The district will rent the two-story house at 29 Oxford Road for \$1,330 per month, Assistant Superintendent of Business Robert Nole said.

Superintendent Daniel Gilligan said the lease and relocation of the business offices- which could happen as soon as December- is the district's way of planning ahead for a future building project. That project includes renovating the current auditorium in the Robert L. Bradley Elementary **School** .

"If the auditorium project takes place, the business offices would have to move to trailers anyway," Gilligan said. "All the space (in the area of the business offices) will be needed to allow for the displacement of classrooms."

For months, the board has been reviewing preliminary plans for a building project, which centers on the renovation of the auditorium and expanding classrooms at both the elementary **school** and adjacent senior high **school** . The final cost of the project has been projected at \$12.3 million, a price tag some board members questioned during a workshop in October.

Also last month, the board said it wanted to buy an abandoned house on Daly Place. The final decision on that purchase not to exceed \$95,000 will be made during a public vote Dec. 13.

The board Tuesday also agreed to a purchase option on the property. If the district decides to buy the property between now and Oct. 31, 2006, the cost of the house will be \$150,000, Nole said. Between Oct. 31, 2006, and Nov. 1, 2008, that price rises to \$155,000, he said. If the district chooses to buy the property between Nov. 1, 2008, and Oct. 31, 2010, the cost will be \$160,000, he said.

Those costs do not include about \$42,000 in repairs and improvements, Nole said.

The option to purchase means the district now is able to put the purchase of 29 Oxford Road up for a public vote if the district decides to go forward with the building project, Gilligan said.

The business offices will move during the December holiday break or the February winter break, Gilligan said. Timing depends on the installation of a security system, he said.

AT A GLANCE

The property at 29 Oxford Road in **New Hartford** will be leased by the **New Hartford Central**

School District for \$1,330 per month and will be used for the district's business offices. The rental property eventually could be purchased by the district, which also agreed to a scheduled purchase option.

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