

## MIDDLETOWN

## Township awaits bid for new public works building

*The building will more than double the space for 20 members of the public works department.*

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or [cenglish@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:cenglish@phillyBurbs.com).

Relief is on the way for the cramped-for-space Middletown Public Works department.

The township supervisors recently approved a notice of intent to award bids for a new 10,500 square-foot public works building to be built on the same Veterans Highway [Route 413] property as the existing 9,600 square-foot building, which will continue to be used.

If the selected low bidders meet all requirements, bids are scheduled to be awarded at either the Nov. 13 or Nov. 27 meeting as follows: \$1,789,000 for general construction to Magnum Inc. of Warminster; \$232,323 for mechanical construction to TMI Commercial Inc. of Honey Brook; \$196,000 for electrical construction to MJF Electrical Contracting of Trevoise; \$272,500 for plumbing construction to Apex Plumbing and Heating Inc. of Philadelphia.

Including architect, engineering and other fees and expenses, the project total of \$2,789,323 is below the \$3,074,000 the township had budgeted, said township Manager Richard Gestrich. That leaves room for possible changes in orders or other unexpected expenses, he said.

"Money wise, it seemed to work out pretty well," said Gestrich. "I'm always a little nervous without a cushion built in for construction projects."

Public Works director Rick Wendel said he's looking forward to a lot more space for himself and the department's 19 other employees.

"I'm glad it's moving along and our people will no longer have to eat lunch in a garage bay," he said. "It will be nice to get some state of the art equipment that comes with the new building [like new vehicle lifts and heavy duty tire changers] and some proper restroom facilities."

The building will be constructed on the spot where the old police building stood. It was demolished after the police moved to their new headquarters just off North Flowers Mill Road several years ago. The new building will have offices, four repair bays, a carpentry and sign-making shop and other features.

If the bids are awarded this month, officials hope construction can start early next year and be finished by February 2009.

Money for the project is coming from a \$10 million bond issue the supervisors approved last year.