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THE TRIBUNE

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Public will get say on town hall plan

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Before a \$3.4 million town hall/library complex will be built in downtown Stouffville, the plan will undergo public scrutiny.

On Tuesday, after 45 minutes of debate, including hearing from the public, Whitchurch-Stouffville Council finally agreed to take the project to the next level of a multi-step process.

Now, the plan is to get design-build cost estimates, have the results studied by council and then presented to the public.

The proposal has been plagued with controversy from the beginning. While most agree that the library expansion is long overdue, some feel that the \$1.4 million town hall segment of the plan is neither needed nor wanted.

Other options suggested are delaying the process, letting it become an issue in the November

municipal election campaign, holding a referendum and waiting until the province decides if Whitchurch-Stouffville will continue to exist and spending the town's money held in reserve now before the province takes over the public purse.

Two weeks ago, town officials, concerned about public safety, stopped holding public meetings in the old town hall for the next few weeks, while \$36,000 worth of work is being done.

Staff reports that it could cost as much as \$700,000 to repair the Civic Avenue facility. If the town hall is built on top of the library, the existing municipal office could be converted to a concert hall to be known as Clock Tower.

Eric Button, spokesman for the Clock-Tower project, said the old town hall is structurally "sound" and would be quite suitable for a concert hall.

Button urged council to take the

project "to the next step" against the library expansion, but the public does not support the town hall part of the plan, said

Sherban. "We're getting the wool pulled

■ Please see page 3 ■

COUNCIL

If the province opts for an amalgamation plan and takes over Whitchurch-Stouffville's future, money held in reserves would be gone. "The reserves could get lost and we'd end up with nothing," said Button.

Stouffville resident Sue Sherban said council has held the library board ransom. The public is not

Farewell for Joan planned

Joan Marshman steps aside this Friday and *The Tribune* is inviting the community to bid farewell to our longest-standing employee.

An open-house will be held tomorrow at *The Tribune* office at 6244 Main St., beside the library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

All of Joan's clients, friends and neighbors are invited to stop by for refreshments and reminiscences, and to wish her well in her retirement. Best wishes only, please.

We're getting the wool pulled over our eyes... Nobody has asked the people if they want a new town hall.
~ Sue Sherban



AT THE BALL: Members of the Dance Centre in Stouffville put on their annual production at Markham Theatre this week. Here, dancers Cristina Mariani, Bridget Campbell and Sandra Baker take flight in the number, 'At the Ball'. See page 9 for review and more photos from the evening.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

@random

Questions linked to the proposed swimming pool will be asked and, hopefully, answered at a public meeting slated for June 12th, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Stouffville Recreation Complex. An indoor swimming pool has been proposed for Stouffville for many years. Susan Harmsen, chairman of a sub-committee linked to the town's Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board, said, "I want to hear from the public." The committee is expecting discussion in large groups, small groups and one-on-one. Written submissions are also being accepted. They can be left at the recreation centre.

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