

Old arena fine for big crowds: Mayor

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heating and sound systems are suspect, Mr. Bannon and others said.

Seating capacity in each pad of the new arena has been raised from 300 to 335. With standing room and lobby seats, that number rises to 500.

"I think that's sizable for what we need to have," he said. "For the 10 times a year, maybe not even that, more than 600 or 700 people are at the arena, the old facility can be still be used."

The new facility includes 10 dressing rooms, a referees' room, skating club office, music room and seats on both sides of the ice pads.

► Go to townofws.com to view the report for Tuesday's council meeting.

While earlier plans showed a two-storey fire hall, it now looks like the new building will only have one storey and be approximately 16,000 square feet.

The two-storey plan was originally considered because of space restrictions on the property, Mr. Emmerson said.

"We are certainly looking at cost effectiveness," Fire Chief Chris Powers said.

Mr. Bannon's concerns were noted, he added, as well as some of the misconceptions.

There is no gymnasium planned for the new fire hall. Rather it is a workout room for firefighters to stay fit, as is common in most fire stations. The facility is also projected to house sleeping quarters for the firefighters when the facility becomes 24/7.

According to Mr. Emmerson, approximately 60 per cent of the fire hall's cost is to be covered by developers, as well as the entire \$15 million cost of the arena. In December, the estimated cost was \$17 million.

In addition, the town will receive revenue when it eventually sells the original downtown fire hall.

The new building needs to be large enough to accommodate increasing numbers of firefighters as the town grows plus administration offices, which are currently in the Ballantrae station, Mr. Emmerson said.

"When you call 9-1-1, you want to make sure you have the proper services coming to you, and we need the proper facilities to accommodate that," he said.

The new twin-ice pad arena will emphasize energy conservation and have sustainable features, Tom Graham, director of leisure services, said.

"I think these are two great projects coming forward. I believe residents will be pleased with what we've done here," Mr. Emmerson said.

Construction of both projects could start this summer, with the fire hall projected to be complete in the summer of 2009 and the ice pads that fall.

Tuesday's meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the fourth floor Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers, 37 Sandiford Dr.

HAVE YOUR SAY

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E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

New doctors welcome at medical centre

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replace doctors as they retire.

Many second-year family practice residents are taught here, Dr. Li said.

The doctors are hoping some of the young family physicians will decide to join their practice. It has been several years since a new doctor joined the centre team.

The son of Jack Chang, who owns the bowling centre building, is a physician looking to have his own medical centre, along with one or two other doctors, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said. The clinic could house up to five doctors, Mr. Chang said.

Mr. Chang did not return calls this week.

To let Whitchurch-Stouffville council know that they want the bowling

centre to stay, the Markham Bowlers, a group of disabled residents who bowl weekly in Stouffville, will be at Tuesday's 3 p.m. council meeting.

However, Mr. White is still worried that if the building can't be brought up to standard, it could sit empty after he has to move. He would like to see town inspectors check out the building before any decision is made on the application for the medical centre.



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