

Haddonfield Chooses Architect for Library Evaluation

The Borough of Haddonfield has selected a New Jersey firm of architects with extensive library experience to determine the feasibility of renovating the existing public library building and to prepare conceptual plans for such renovations. The Board of Commissioners authorized the awarding of a contract during their regular meeting on Tuesday night. The work will be carried out by Arcari & Iovino, a firm based in Little Ferry, for a fee of not more than \$29,525.

The process of selecting an architect for the project began with the issuing of a request for proposals in January. Responses were received from 34 firms. The borough reduced that number by checking for complete compliance with the requirements of the RFP and by eliminating firms that did not have previous experience with libraries, especially historic libraries, or historic buildings.

The Commissioners, the Borough Administrator and representatives of the Library Board of Trustees conducted interviews with four firms, narrowed their selection to two, and made their final choice following reference checks with clients of the two finalists.

Arcari & Iovino have extensive experience in all aspects of library work, including needs assessments, feasibility studies, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, additions, renovations, and new construction. A considerable number of their projects have involved the renovation of historic structures to accommodate modern library needs.

The architects' first task will be to evaluate the structural integrity of the existing building. That study will indicate the ability of the building to be modified to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to accommodate an addition, if desired.

Next, they will determine whether an ADA-compliant building can accommodate the programs and services that Library Development Solutions, a Princeton-based consulting firm, identified last year as being appropriate for a modern library in Haddonfield. If additional space is required the architects will prepare conceptual designs for additions of 7,500 and 15,000 square feet. In each case, they will provide cost estimates for their proposals.

Work on the project is expected to begin immediately and to be completed by the end of the summer.

The commissioners will be appointing a nine member committee to meet with the architects throughout the process. They have requested members of the public that are interested in participating on this committee submit their name for consideration.