

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Elk Rapids District Library Building Project**  
**Updated May 2024**

**Q: What is the status of the purchase of the Traverse Bay Manufacturing building?**

Answer: The library board voted to purchase the building for \$1.2 million, closing on the building in February of 2024.

**Q: How did the library pay the \$1.2 million purchase price? Did you take out a loan?**

Answer: The library utilized a combination of proceeds from the previous campaign effort, new gifts and pledges from donors, the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library, and unrestricted non-operational reserve funds to purchase the property.

**Q: The initial design presented by the architectural team is \$9 million. What is the plan for funding the project?**

Answer: The initial \$9 million cost is for an “all-in” project: it would pay for every renovation in the plan, but not every renovation needs to be done at once. Library leadership is considering ways to make the proposed design a reality, including phasing the project and collaborative partnerships that would help fund portions of the facility. Once an initial phase is determined, we will develop a funding plan that will include a regional capital campaign and grants, as well as exploring the possibility of public bonding.

**Q: How will you know whether or not the community supports the renovation and expansion plan cost?**

Answer: We have partnered with the Breton Group, a fund development consultant out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This firm will “test” the proposed funding plan in the community by conducting a pre-campaign Feasibility Study that will allow community leaders, philanthropists, and residents to voice their opinions and willingness to support the library. Only after that study is complete would we begin the funding process.

**Q: If the Feasibility Study shows enough community support to move forward with renovations and expansion, when will you start fund raising?**

Answer: Our goal is to begin the funding process during the second quarter of the year.

**Q: When will the public see the final plans and will there be a chance for input?**

Answer: From May-July 2024, the board will reengage the architectural firm Quinn Evans to work on draft refining of the interior and exterior plans, cost estimating, phases of construction, and community engagement in planning input. Stay tuned to hear how you can become involved!

**Q: What will happen to the Island House?**

Answer: The decision about the future of the Island House rests with the owners of the building, the Village of Elk Rapids. The Village is forming a committee to examine the future possibilities within the restrictions of the deed. **According to the deed**, the property must be “*suitable and adaptable for public use as a park, library, place of assembly, village hall or for community center purposes generally, presented for use and benefit of the Village and its residents for any or all the uses or purposes mentioned above.*” “*It shall not be used as a hospital, nursing home, convalescent home, home for the aged or for any similar institution or purpose.*”