

New \$1.3-million animal shelter to break ground in spring

By Michael Jones

Staff Writer
GAYLORD —

Architectural drawings for a new 8,795-square-foot animal shelter were recently completed and Otsego County Animal Control Director Angel Oppermann said groundbreaking for the facility could begin by spring or early summer with a targeted completion date for this fall.

The architectural plans for the new shelter were drawn up by Bradley J. Butcher & Associates, PC of Gaylord.

When completed, Oppermann said the \$1.2 million building would be approximately three and a half times bigger than the current shelter located on East Seventh Street. The current shelter was built in 1974 and

is about a quarter the size for a county as big as Otsego County.

Location for the new shelter has not been finalized but Oppermann said two pieces of county property are under consideration.

Oppermann said the county is looking at the property currently occupied by Building and Zoning Department on Cross Street and the former DNR parcel located west of the Otsego County Library.

A SHELTER building fund, established a number of years ago, currently has a balance of around \$500,000. Oppermann said the remainder of the cost for the new facility, approximately \$700,000, would be financed through a bond which would be paid off through the county Ani-



This is a rendering of the planned new animal shelter. It is designed by local architect Brad Butcher.

mal Control budget.

"I want to stress that we will not be asking for a millage to pay for the new building," said Op-

permann. "We have been saving for a number of years and we believe the time to move forward is now."

The health concerns and a lack of space for the animals housed at the current shelter were at the top of the list for

the need of the new shelter.

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