

Avon Council gives green light for library project to proceed

By BARBARA THOMAS, For The Avon News, December 1, 2010

AVON – The Town Council Wednesday night gave the nod for documents to be signed to move the library expansion project forward.

“Work should begin by the end of the month,” Library Building Committee Chair Diane Hornaday said following the Dec. 1 meeting. “This is wonderful. We’re very pleased the council accepted our recommendations.”

The council had hoped the project would come in with a price tag of \$8.5 million but the committee, working with the architect and construction manager set it at \$8.7 million after all trade bids were in.

“For the integrity of the project, we decided to expend a bit more,” Hornaday said.

In addition to bonding, the work will be subsidized by a \$1 million state grant and fundraising that is underway.

Fearing that the grant may not be received due to the State Bond Commission’s cancellation of several meetings, the council asked for the project to be reduced from the original estimate of \$9.5 million to \$8.5 million.

A formal groundbreaking ceremony will be held in early January on the project, which will increase the library’s square footage from 18,000 to 40,000. Voters approved bonding for the expansion and renovation in an October 2009 referendum.