

'These buildings are garbage': McMurray on issues with old Nike base

By [Nancy A. Fischer](#) | Published May 22, 2018 | Updated May 22, 2018

A state dormitory grant of \$210,000 may not be enough to repair the Grand Island Recreation/Community Center building, a 7,000 square-foot building on the former Nike Base.

The Grand Island Town board got the report Monday from Bill Schaab, vice-president of American Demolition Nuclear Decommissioning, who discussed the status of the building at the town's work session.

He said the town could use the grant money to "encapsulate" or cover the floor, which has crumbling asbestos tiles, but there is still asbestos in the walls and ceilings.

Schaab said the condition in the community room, which is used for exercise classes and quilting classes by senior citizen members of the town's Golden Agers club, are generally good and safe. But he said the boiler room needs immediate attention and is not compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations for custodial staff because of asbestos issues. The condition of the boiler, pipes and utilities, which are 60 years old, will eventually need attention as well, he said.

Additionally, the roof is nearing the end of its life, at 20 to 22 years old, and it also would need to be tested to determine if it contains asbestos.

"The roof is a major component of any repair. The last thing you want is to dump a lot of money into the inside of the building and find out you still have to put a \$50,000 to \$100,000 roof on after," said Schaab.

Schaab said encapsulating the floor would make it safer, but the town would essentially be "kicking the can down the road" because the asbestos would still be there and at some point someone will have to deal with it when it is torn down.

In addition, all of the buildings contain lead paint, which would have to be addressed if the space is used by children, he told the board.

Schaab said removal and demolition of the recreation building would cost \$350,000.

"People have to realize these buildings are garbage – not usable and fixing them would cost a fortune," said Town Supervisor Nathan McMurray. "We have to stop giving people hope it will be revitalized."

Councilwoman Jennifer Baney said it seems unlikely that the board would vote to renovate the building, but members still need to look at all the costs and options.

The board will consider using the \$210,000 in another building on the Nike Base, including using the money to remove asbestos in the old portion of the nearby Golden Age Center.