

# NT plans to restore Remington Rand building with grant

BY PHIL DZIKIY  
The Tonawanda News

— If North Tonawanda city officials get their way, a Sweeney Street building could be completely revitalized in the future.

The Remington Rand Building, a 160,000 square foot warehouse along the Erie Canal, has been contracted to purchase by Anthony Kissling, a Buffalo and New York City developer.

Lumber City Executive Director Jim Sullivan brought the project to the Common Council on Wednesday night. The council authorized the mayor to sign and submit a grant application for the project. The city is applying for a \$1 million grant from the Restore New York Grant Program, Sullivan said.

The new plans call for 51 work and living lofts for businesses, a restaurant, health club and antique boat museum. The museum would be open all year long, said Greg Sehr, president of Upstate Consultants. Sehr presented the project.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society would occupy the museum, Sehr said.

The building would be fully-taxable, Sullivan said. It would be an important keystone in the North Tonawanda downtown redevelopment plan, he said.

"This is the beginning," Sullivan said.

City officials had nothing but good things to say about the redevelopment possibilities.

"It's a beautiful-looking project," Mayor Larry Soos said.

The building could bring a new captive market to the area, with young people living in the lofts, Common Council President Brett Sommer said.

After Sullivan left, the meeting mood went from happy to heated as the council made final decisions on adopting the 2007 city budget.

Nancy Donovan, 3rd Ward alderman, suggested taking the mayor's confidential secretary position out of the 2007 budget.

"My office is working great right now," Soos said. "Don't throw a wrench in it, please."

As board members continued to debate the issue, Soos became extremely upset.

"I need both of those people," he said, pounding his fist on the table. "Why don't you just cut my throat for crying out loud?"

The position was pulled from the budget, as Donovan, Sommer and Alderman-at-Large Catherine Schwandt voted to remove it. Phillip "Russ" Rizzo, 1st Ward alderman, and 2nd Ward Alderman Kevin Brick voted to keep the position in.

The elimination of the position removed \$31,827 from the budget. The position is currently held by Greg Schnitzer.

"This is all crap and you know it's crap," Soos said. "You're cutting my legs out from under me."

The council approved the final budget of \$30,129,911.

Contact Phil Dzikiy at 693-1000, Ext. 114.

**BREAKOUT BOX**

**IF YOU GO**

- **WHAT:** Remington Rand Building redevelopment public hearing
- **WHEN:** 5:30 p.m., Sept. 21
- **WHERE:** Norman L. Keller Community Building, 500 Wheatfield St., North Tonawanda

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