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Town finds home during office, BOCC renovations

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The Parry Sound Mall is not just for shopping anymore.

Starting in September, it becomes the temporary set up for Town of Parry Sound employees as renovations begin on the town office.

Not everyone is pleased with the decision, however.

"I just don't like to see it leave the downtown," said Coun. Dan McCauley, who voted against the direction to enter into a lease agreement with Parry Sound Mall Inc.

Chief administrative officer Rob Mens said town staff considered all of the available space in the downtown as a potential spot to house the 30 members of staff.

He said they looked at a variety of properties on James Street and space in the former hospital, but it wasn't big enough to house staff in one building.

"It would have been different locations rather than just one," said Mens.

"The options downtown just weren't as viable as when you have one big, open space."

Mens said accessibility for residents and free parking also sweetened the move.

The town had planned to work out of the Bobby Orr Community Centre during the long-awaited renovations to the town office.

Plans changed when the town was awarded \$2.1 million in joint federal and provincial funding to partially fund renovations of the arena. Construction will likely start around the same time as the office.

If the lease agreement is approved, town staff expect to be at the mall for about a year.

They will occupy a space behind the HART store, which is accessible through a hallway.

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