

By Jan Schultz, The Imperial Republican News Editor

Imperial has always been known for its progressive attitude.

If a problem arises, local residents aren't shy about "taking the bull by the horns" and trying to solve it.

That came to be realized in two specific efforts again this week—a proposed housing project to relocate a four-plex apartment complex here and efforts to get plans for a new fire hall off the ground.

Imperial Prime, Inc., a local corporation that evolved from a housing committee of the Imperial Chamber of Commerce, is pursuing a project to move the apartment complex here from another community.

Businesses who feel a need to have housing available for potential employees will be contacted regarding their interest in reserving an apartment with a donation toward the project cost.

If the business doesn't need it right away, the apartment could be made available to the public to rent.

Funding half of the effort will be city sales tax funds earmarked for economic development.

It's a novel idea, and the committee members have put in a lot of hours getting to this point. There is still some work to do, but it's an innovative effort to deal with our community's rental housing shortage.

In another area, the fire department has revitalized its building committee and has started some initial planning for a new fire hall/barn on the empty lot north of the library.

Fire trucks are getting longer and wider and IVFD officers see an impending space squeeze for new equipment purchased down the road.

While more space was available in the barn after the EMS built its new building and moved its units from there, future additions of equipment will exceed the space. And, with wider trucks being built today, it's tight pulling trucks in the bays now.

Budget money has already been set aside for the fire hall/barn but bond issue dollars will also be needed and will eventually come before voters.

Projects such as these continue to keep our community moving ahead. That's what is attracting young families back to their hometowns, and others who have found something special in Imperial.