



FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Town of Greenland
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MINUTES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Monday, January 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Dennis Malloy, Paul Sanderson, Don Miller, Dennis Cote

Members Absent: Kevin Forrest

Advisory Members: Ralph Cresta – Fire Chief; Jim Marchese – Building Inspector; Vaughan Morgan – Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Bob Krasko – Budget Committee

Also Present: Frank Hansler - Budget Committee

Chief Cresta opened the Fire Station Building Committee meeting at 7:15 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chief; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Approval of Minutes: Monday, December 10, 2018

Approval of minutes was continued to the next meeting.

2. General Discussion

Chief Cresta reviewed the outcome of the Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2019 (the Budget Committee voted to not recommend the Fire Station Bond). Many Committee members were unaware there would be a vote after the School budget portion of the public hearing. An agenda for the meeting was not available; V. Morgan added that there were two members of the Budget Committee at most Fire Department Building Committee meetings. He continued that, in hindsight, the Budget Committee should have been invited to meetings so they would be aware of the plans. At the Budget Public Hearing, the biggest concern of the Budget Committee was that they had never seen a plan. V. Morgan added that the Building Committee does have a very good plan but it wasn't taken to the Budget Committee.

P. Sanderson clarified that February 02, 2019 is the Deliberative Session. At that meeting, the people can decide to change the language of warrant articles; they cannot change the purpose. The amount can also be changed, but not more than 10%. The Budget Committee will have the opportunity to change their recommendation.

D. Miller, also a member of the Budget Committee, stated that some of the comments were "how big is this thing", "what's it going to look like". He continued that when the article was read, John Ricci should have been introduced to present the project. At the Deliberative Session, D. Miller will strongly recommend that after the article is read, seconded and moved, J. Ricci is recognized to present the project and the process.

J. Ricci stated that the floor plans are done and the colored plans will be sent out. The station will mirror the look of the Police Station. Plans will be ready to display at the Town Hall on Thursday.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

B. Krasko noted that there were no questions about the proposed station during the public hearing. P. Sanderson and V. Morgan both spoke during the public hearing. D. Miller noted that they were dealing with the recommendation of the Budget Committee. Seven of those members were not satisfied with the information presented and voted not to recommend; three people were knowledgeable about the process and voted to recommend. The Budget Committee misunderstood that they could not speak; F. Hansler stated that they were under the impression this was for the public and not the Board. There was a discussion about the best way to have the Budget Committee reconsider their recommendation on the bond warrant article, including reducing the dollar amount.

V. Morgan, in his personal opinion, felt the damage had been done. He researched the warrant articles since he has been a Selectman. When the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen agree, the warrant article passes; when they disagree, chances are it will not pass. He agreed the Building Committee should have stayed for the Budget Committee vote to answer any questions.

P. Sanderson clarified that when the petitioned warrant article regarding the Library bond came in, emails were circulating with incorrect information that the Fire Department was at fault. At the public hearing there was stony silence and shaking of heads as well as concerns of losing the Library. P. Sanderson continued that they weren't going to lose their Library. No one on the Building Committee, including himself, had anything to do with that.

There was a discussion about the vote to recommend/not recommend and the confusion surrounding it. B. Krasko, as Chair, was told he couldn't vote; the Budget Committee didn't realize they could talk. P. Sanderson stated that at Deliberative Session the entire warrant could be changed by the people. Based on any changes in circumstances, the Selectmen and Budget Committee can change their recommendations. When the warrant is finalized, that's when recommendations are made. P. Sanderson explained that a meeting could be called immediately following the session to review the results of the Deliberative Session to change their recommendation on warrant articles.

Chief Cresta was informed by F. Hansler that another rumor was that he was retiring and wasn't interested or part of the project. This is an incorrect statement; he has been asked to stay another three years.

The proposed fire station will be reviewed at the Planning Board meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Budget Committee members will be encouraged to attend that meeting. A tour of the current fire station will be done prior to the meeting. They will be able to see how markedly different the Building Committee's progress is from the Library. The fire station is much further along in the review process than the Library. Fire station drawings and plans will be available to the Planning Board at their meeting. D. Miller suggested that the Board Secretary contact the local reporter to be present at that meeting.

B. Krasko will call for a Budget Committee meeting immediately following the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 02, 2019. Members need to be aware they can change their recommendation at that time. Members can talk at Deliberative Session. D. Cote asked if the need for a fire station was discussed and relayed to the public. The job of the Budget Committee was to make sure the Town functioned in a safe and economical manner.

J. Marchese brought members up-to-date on the surveyor who has been on-site. He asked if a site plan would be available for the Planning Board meeting; J. Ricci responded something would be available. All the CAD information was sent to Eric Weinrieb as well as the occupant load.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Chief Cresta asked J. Ricci the project cost if the station wasn't done this year. J. Ricci, citing several examples, felt the cost could increase as much as 20% to 25% per year. At the public hearing, a resident made a point that it may be better to wait until 2022 or 2023. If this project were approved this year, the full amount of the bond wouldn't start until 2020. What would the cost of the project be if the Town waited until 2022 or 2023? Would waiting until bonds were paid offset the increased cost of the project? The community needs to know the effect of waiting two to three years. The road bond expires in 2024; the school bond expires in 2020. V. Morgan added that Bayside Road could cost \$1.4 million or more and should be on the warrant articles next year. F. Hansler suggested a grant; Chief Cresta responded that any grants have to be "shovel ready"; the ground must be prepped and ready to go.

P. Sanderson noted that Jim Katkin, former SAU 50 Business Administrator, passed away over the weekend.

P. Sanderson was not in favor of the warrant article to make repairs to the existing fire station. Building Committee members felt it may hurt the bond. P. Sanderson felt it was a completely worthless expense this year.

J. Ricci stated the word needed to get out about the station and an open house was a good idea. A five year cost projection should be brought forward at Deliberative Session; education, education, education. A fire station will service everyone in the community; a Library necessarily won't. V. Morgan stated it was important not to get confrontational with the Library vs. the Fire Department. It was a safety aspect for the Town.

There was a discussion about the Library plan review. J. Marchese noted that the State felt the Library was a business and the Fire Marshall's office will not get involved. The Planning Board meeting on Thursday, February 07, 2019 will be focused on the Library; the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Building Inspector and Planning Board Engineer will be present.

P. Sanderson stated that he has heard from several residents that "Portsmouth will cover us"; that isn't the case. Chief Cresta will have to address those comments; the Seacoast Chiefs may also have to get involved. "Mutuality requires mutuality".

Floor plans and elevations will be available for the Planning Board meeting. A Power Point presentation at the Deliberative Session was recommended. Plans will be on display in the Town Hall as well as an informational sheet. For safety reasons, J. Marchese suggested using one easel.

There was a discussion about the ISO rating and its impact on the Fire Department and insurance rates. Chief Cresta stated that the washer and dryer have never had water in them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

To Be Announced

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: 