

## Fire Department Building Committee May 24 6:30 pm

Please note we will be meeting at the fire station for a brief tour at 6:30 prior to returning to the Willey building for the meeting. In attendance Mike Hogan, Skip Bothfeld, Fred Ducharme, Dean Deasy, Brad Alexander, Andy Luce and Karen Deasy

### 1. Review agenda

Meeting called to order at 6:30 Motion made to approve it by Fred, Seconded by Brad. The Chair decided to wait at the Town Hall to see if any community members would show prior to heading to the fire station.

### 2. Public comment

Working group moved to the Fire station for the site inspection and Public comment, Dean and Skip lead the tour describing the situation on site and informing the members of the community who attended of the current problems they face and difficulties with providing service to the Community from their existing facility.

It was discussed that the construction of the new station is several years down the road as a design has not been finalized and funds have not been secured. The Fire Department intends to look for grants to facilitate construction.

Site screening was discussed with the abutting neighbor as well as activity on site and past issues with the use. The on site screening at the new station was discussed by the adjoining neighbor's properties and the plan is to start planting screening now to allow it to mature. The locations we are looking at were reviewed to begin planting now, the town will plant a natural screen rather than a fence. Selection and locations will be reviewed with the landowner prior to planting.

The abutting landowner had some concerns regarding use of the field for sports until the facility was built, previous activity was uncontrolled and they believe it is a liability, would like to express their concerns that activity be controlled. It was asked if the Owner could send the Selectboard comments that will be addressed.

The following questions arose that the group will explore:

- Is it possible to consider putting a second floor on the existing station?
- What if Cabot contracted out for fire protection services?
- What funding sources are to be used?
- Is the current siren necessary and will it move to the new location?

### 3. Update on tasks

#### a. Community relations

It was discussed that the letter the Fire department distributed was a great informational piece to let the community know where many of the problems are on the existing site. Further information should build on this, posting in the Hardwick Gazette, and the Cabot Chronicle would like an article for the August edition.

#### b. Master plan

##### i. Site plan

The new station will be placed further back on the lot it has not been determined if the pond will be eliminated or reduced in size. The Town will have Lisa Ginnette verify the corners and monuments on site.

##### ii. Building design

The Department would like to have drive through bays on the station to allow for the greatest flexibility. The office & training areas are critical spaces, making this area flexible. Mutual aid is a critical function and providing for dispatch space is also important. There are grants available for stations that are used as operations centers and multi-function buildings. As there may be a need for a satellite office or future police protection making sure the spaces are flexible is a priority.

##### iii. Building demolition

Brad Alexander completed the site inventory of the existing structure many of the items are not salvageable, He will spend a day or two removing items to be salvaged and create a list, we will post

the list on FPF for local landowners who may be interested in providing a donation for some of the articles. If community members are interested they should reach out to Karen Deasy or Brad Alexander with a request. Brad will write up the RFP based on the old Town garage request for the Selectboard to approve at the next meeting. Karen will contact DEC regarding removal of the old tank. The goal is to have the structure removed by fall of 2018.

c. Site visits

- i. Skip reported that New Haven and Bristol are currently also in planning stages for a new facility. The Towns of Middlebury, Williamstown, East Montpelier and Johnson all have recently built new facilities. Skip will start arranging site visits and coordinate with the group to see who can go.

d. Funding

Upcoming grant cycles may provide some opportunity, the Town will keep an eye open for funds which could be used.

4. Other business

Minutes from April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting approved, Moved by Fred, Seconded Skip

5. Next meeting date

June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Willey Building.

6. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn 9:03 Moved by Skip seconded Fred

Submitted by Karen Deasy