

Meeting will be held at the Fire Station

Fire Department Building Committee May 16, 6:30 pm

Committee Skip Bothfeld, Andy Luce, Dean Deasy, Brad Alexander, Karen Deasy
Selectboard Ruth Goodrich, Fred Ducharme
Public Jeff Haslett

1. Review agenda

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm Dean moved agenda seconded Andy No revisions to agenda, agenda approved.

2. Public comment

Fred stated he would like to see everything as open as possible and important to get info out to the community, hopes there will be a June article in the chronicle.

3. Discuss grants and fundraisers

It was asked if account for building fund has been established yet, Mike had indicated he would confirm this. Dean indicated that there may be funding available for the decon space in the new fire station, they are discussing this and training with the creamery as well as with the state.

Home security grants may also be available for training centers and could be used towards the meeting/training rooms. Solar grants are also available for building facilities, they are pushing to use green technology everywhere. The new land is on GMP and there is more funding available through GMP for solar installations, for both power and hot water.

Green building is one of the many things being investigated for the new station.

4. Site inspections existing building assessments - schedule and reports

Dean indicated he had stopped at Johnson and the station is not what they were looking for, the heating system is poor and does not function well, and exhaust system is very basic. Andy indicated Stowe ventilation system uses cube units for exhaust discussion on incentives. Skip indicated that Georgia and possibly Randolph would be stations to visit. Indicated each visit they see features that they would like to incorporate. Recently both toured East Montpelier who is planning an addition, they initially cut 1,000,000 out of their budget and they will be spending more than that to add the extra space cut from the initial project.

5. Report for Selectboard

Dean indicated the Fire Department is not Happy with the Selectboard wanting them to go “on the record” with the known issues and violations in the existing station. They will be

presenting to the Selectboard their report on Tuesday that lays out all of the code violations and issues. They have been given deadlines to address some of the potential problems and have indicated that the financial impacts of the violations are quite substantial. The FD will be contacting all of the agencies involved to let them know what their plan is to address the situation and will be requesting time as they do not want to spend valuable resources fixing issues in the existing station. Department of Public Safety has given them a June 19th deadline to address the outstanding issues in their report. The Fire department for transparency will be posting the complete findings and providing copies at various locations for review. This will also be available at the Town's website. The report contains a summary of each report plus the full text of all of the reports. Summary ANR, ANR has indicated the floor drains need to be sealed and cannot discharge into the river, the Fire station land is also in the flood hazard zone new fill and development is not permitted in this area and construction on the existing bank would not be permitted. Development in the FHA also would restrict the use of federal and state funds as they would not approve the use of funding in a hazard zone.

Vosha/Osha diesel exhaust is not evacuated from the building and is vented into the room where the air tanks are filled. There is no eyewash station, current hose drying tower cannot be used, oxygen tanks are to be stored in a separate area with a min. one hr fire rating, travel lane must be maintained for traffic when using the apron in front of the building traffic control should be used when operating on equipment on the apron, decontamination gear washing area causes cross contamination. Cabot builds new facility the violations will be addressed.

ADA Vermont Council for Independent Living inspection, State head of Access Board attended the site walkthrough. It took the gentleman 10 min to enter the station with his walker, indicated the primary entry and secondary entries are not accessible, he indicated there were multiple violations ramps circulation path of travel needs to be widened, not sufficient space, gear storage needs to be relocated, wash area is not accessible, washroom is not accessible, structure will require a great deal of renovation to make the structure comply. He indicated he saw 21 violations in the first 5 minutes in the facility.

Department of Public Safety indicated that fire separation between the office area and the bays is not up to code, various outlets are not GFCI protected, boiler inspection is not up to date.

Lajeunesse indicated the rear bank is not stable and a second floor would require an elevator and two code compliant stairways for egress. Both Conner and Lajeunesse indicated the existing structure and foundation would not support a second story. Agencies indicated that all violations are now “on record” if an accident or injury were to occur the town would be considered negligent and liable for any injuries.

FD is in a position to move forward. With plans and discuss direction to take moving forward dean would like to see a firm timeline where and how progressing to prevent further issues at the building. All indicated that they wanted to see the town continue moving forward with plans. Fire department would like to stay focused on issues at Hand, Fred indicated support moving ahead plan what to do keep community informed. Need to be Transparent. Skip indicated voters need to understand what we are up against to sell the project to the landowners.

Ruth indicated she supports the need for a new station, really would like to see green solar used at the new facility. Asked if they could bring a more detailed plan to the Selectboard meeting, floor area proposed station is between 11,00 - 12,000 sf.

Discussion on plusses of new land three phase power, town water and sewer easy access and good visibility. Ruth would like to see FD promote itself and be more visible with training in the community. Suggested extraction training or possibly a bus incident. Provide a public safety office for use by VSP and Sherriff possibly also the Town Health officer.

Fred and Ruth would like to see a comparison of costs to do nothing and potential repairs and penalties vs costs to build and what the major issues are summarized.

Ruth also indicated that she would entertain the use of CCIF funds for station, such use of funds would be up to the Town and would need to go to the voters. Fire Station and ambulance would need to develop a lease agreement on paper. The FD also discussed the need to also partial pay members to retain volunteers.

6. Mailing information

Town no longer has bulk rate permit, Andy indicated L Brown and sons provides discounts for bulk mailing, Ruth indicated that they use their service and it is very professional.

7. Other business
8. Next meeting date June 20, 2019, 6:30 pm
9. Adjourn
 Motion to adjourn Andy seconded Dean 8:05 pm

Submitted by Karen Deasy