



FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Town of Greenland
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MINUTES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Rick Hussey – Board of Selectmen, Dennis Malloy, Don Miller, Vaughan Morgan, Steve Smith – Board of Selectmen

Members Absent:

Advisory Members: Dennis Cote – Emergency Management; Ralph Cresta – Fire Chief; Jim Marchese – Building Inspector (late arrival); Bob Krasko – Budget Committee

Also Present: John Ricci – Ricci Construction

Chief Cresta opened the Fire Station Building Committee meeting at 7:01 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, January 28, 2019

MOTION: B. Krasko moved to approve the minutes of Monday, January 28, 2019. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. General Discussion

Chief Cresta explained the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the site plan and decide where the fire station project was going. J. Ricci was working with Eric Weinreib, Altus Engineering, on the site plan; Chief Cresta will need a bill by December 15, 2019. J. Ricci stated the goal was to have all permits/approvals in place this year: Planning Board, subsurface, etc. Chief Cresta clarified that the drawings, site plans, engineering, etc. should be done this year. J. Ricci stated that test pits will need to be done for the septic system. The plan is to connect the septic system to the existing Town septic. Even though J. Marchese has given monthly water usage to Altus Engineering, the State requires exploratory for the existing field. Borings were done and are complete.

Encumbered funds for engineering were discussed: \$37,300 for civil engineering and \$17,000 for structural engineering. J. Ricci felt the drawings from Altus Engineering would be done in October; the remaining would be time spent at the Planning Board. Responding to a question from Chief Cresta, J. Ricci stated he has requested to meet with E. Weinreib to discuss the layout of the building; expansion of the building would not be shown on the site plan but will be on the architectural plans. Boring test results do not expire as long as nothing geologically changes dramatically. Subsurface tests have a three year window.

J. Marchese arrived.

Voting members of the committee were discussed. Another voting member was needed. Chief Cresta suggested that R. Hussey and S. Smith discuss with the Board of Selectmen who should be the voting member. V. Morgan suggested Frank Catapano was interested in replacing Kevin Forrest as a voting

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member. V. Morgan will check with F. Catapano; he would have to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. As a member of the Planning Board, F. Catapano would have to recuse himself when the project went to the Planning Board. V. Morgan will look into the legal details of both the representatives from the Board of Selectmen as voting members.

MOTION: Chief Cresta moved to appoint V. Morgan as a voting member. Second – D. Miller; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Chief Cresta informed members that the Attorney General's Office had gotten involved with the flyers being distributed through the Fire Department and the costs of involved. Chief Cresta has reimbursed the Town for the bill paid with Town funds; he has personally paid all bills. He spent close to \$1,900 on the mailings and flyers; someone in the Town Hall said Town funds could be used. A complaint was filed with the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General also had a problem distributing information on Town property. R. Hussey stated they couldn't be on Town property in uniform, use Town vehicles, or any Town supplies. Flyers were distributed by personnel in fire gear trying to stay warm. The case is considered closed and the Town will be receiving a letter of reprimand. Chief Cresta stated he would like clarification on what can and can't be done on Town property.

Chief Cresta asked the Committee how they wanted to proceed with the project. He was concerned that if they didn't move forward, residents may think a new station wasn't needed. He understood people were concerned with the bonds still open; however, they should continue trying and let the townspeople speak. D. Miller added that the longer they wait, the more it will cost. J. Ricci stated that historically they have seen 20% to 25% increases. If the Committee voted to continue, he could have an updated number within a month. Chief Cresta stated that the Fire Department was not trying to steal the Library's money or take it in any way. He felt it would be a mistake to wait a year to put the fire station forward. V. Morgan felt there should be no conflict with the Library if the fire station was put through as a warrant article; it was never meant to be that even though many people in Town felt that way. It keeps the ball moving if a warrant article or CRF is done for the fire station. A new fire station is needed now. Members were reminded that deadlines needed to be met for the bond hearing and warrant article filing dates. D. Miller felt there were people in Town who didn't understand the need and importance of a new fire station. The issue has not changed: there is a building that is adequate as a building but it's not adequate as a fire station for the Town's emergency personnel.

V. Morgan explained that a warrant article for a fire station bond and Capital Reserve Fund can be done at the same time. Both would be written so that if one passed Town Meeting, the other would be nullified. The amount put into the CRF would be determined by the cost of the station and the number of years to extend it out. Chief Cresta would like to have the language clarified before submitting.

J. Ricci felt going to the Planning Board and getting approval was a great way to build momentum. With Planning Board approval, and a good portion of the building designed, they were almost shovel ready. J. Marchese noted they didn't need Planning Board approval; V. Morgan felt it would be a good idea. J. Ricci stated that the Town should be above itself. He felt they could build momentum with residents by doing the right thing. The consensus of the Committee was to move forward with the project.

The plan is to submit the warrant article to the Board of Selectmen rather than as a petitioned warrant article. There were concerns that the Library has been unable to move forward with the new addition and the Town is paying for a bond. V. Morgan stated that if the fire station is put on the warrant as an either/or project and the Town votes it down, members will know they've done everything they can possibly do. Chief Cresta stated if they don't pass it in March, it needs to be done again so people know a new station is needed. The siding didn't add any more room inside the existing station; the building

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was not enlarged. R. Hussey added that Town buildings have not been maintained. It's going to cost money to fix the buildings, and people are going to ask "why do you need a new building if you can't take care of what you have". He suggested saying they've outgrown the current building and need more room to work in a safe manner.

V. Morgan will find out about the technicalities of Selectmen and Planning Board members being voting members of the Fire Department Building Committee. J. Ricci will have a revised cost available for the next meeting.

MOTION: Chief Cresta moved to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Second – V. Morgan; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 24, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant

Approved: 