



Fire Station Building Review Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2018
UNAPPROVED

Committee members in attendance: Selectman Kimberley Edelmann - Chair, David Hartman, Howard Kirchner, Jonathan Lord, Janice Loz, Peter Wyman

Also in attendance: John McGilvray, Klara Edelmann

Absent: Peter Ladd, Ed Raymond

1. Meeting Start & Roll Call

Kimberley called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. Minutes

Jonathan made a motion to accept the minutes of January 31. Peter seconded. No comments or corrections were offered. All approved the minutes.

3. Intertown Record

Kimberley gave everyone a copy of the February 13 issue of the Intertown Record. The fire station project was mentioned in three different articles on pages 1, 2, and 3.

The cover story was an interview with Warner Fire & Rescue Chief Ed Raymond done by Barbara Lassonde. Great article and photo. The article continued on to page 3. Kimberley had a "SelectGal" article on page 2. Ray Carbone had an article on page 3.

Kimberley said that she was not aware of the interview with Ed. She felt the interview was excellent.

4. Financing

Kimberley said the total project cost was set at nearly \$2,750,000. Long term financing of \$2,500,000 via a bond would be done. Depending on the length of the bond term (15 or 20 years) and whether the Town goes with level debt or level principle, the impact to taxpayers was estimated to be between 65 and 95 cents per \$1,000. That would be \$130 to \$190 per year.

The other funds would come from two sources. \$200,000 would come from the unassigned fund balance and \$50,000 would come from taxation.

Jonathan said there would be questions about the \$50,000. Kimberley said the tax on the \$50,000 was the first year only. The bond would not come into play until 2019.

Kimberley shared that for every \$100,000 that the town finances, there is a 35 cent impact on taxes. The first year would be \$50,000 or 17 cents.

5. Public Sessions

The Public Hearing for the bond would be taking place on Thursday, February 22 at 7 pm. Kimberley believed Jim Bingham would be talking about the bond since he had been the one working the closest with the bond counsel. Kimberley would be talking about the fire station itself. She believed Ed Raymond would also be on hand.

Kimberley said there was still no date set for a last information session / meet & greet. She would have to get in contact with the Chief about that.

Peter said at the recent fire station meeting, some of the members expressed interest in doing something.

Jonathan asked if videos will be shown. Kimberley said she had input from her husband who was against videos in general and was recommending talking to photos instead. Meanwhile, Kimberley had appointments with Steve Raymond, Brian Monaghan and Lauren Gibbons to do more photography and video work.

Janice suggested that the video of the car fire should not that no one was actually inside the car.

Kimberley felt that the "walk through" of the station was way too long to show at Town Meeting. David felt the walk through did not tell him what was being shown. Kimberley said it was for the viewer to reach their own conclusions; it was simply a walk through the building. Janice recommended showing the walk through video and talk to it while it's running. Kimberley said the video was too long to do that.

John McGilvray said the walk through was interesting because after he actually saw the station, he could see the need for a new one.

6. Dragonfly

Kimberley pointed out that while the need may seem obvious to some, there are still many who will be against a new fire station no matter what.

She said she had recently been told that some people were against the fire station because the Dragonfly Range didn't go through, quoting lost potential tax revenue. She felt there was no connection between the range and the fire station.

Howard shared that Eric Miller, the owner of Dragonfly, had posted on Facebook about the fire station. Eric specifically asked his supporters to not to hold the ZBA decision against the fire station. Eric supported the fire station.

Howard added that the Town had been on different sides of issues before, but then would come together on other issues.

7. Reaching Out

Kimberley asked the committee for other ideas of how to reach out to the public and help them understand the need for a new fire station.

Kimberley asked for members to put in some time at the Transfer Station to answer questions about the fire station.

Jonathan asked if there was a way to show the "walk through" video at the Transfer Station. Kimberley didn't have a computer she would want to leave there.

Kimberley said that Ed Mical had recently pointed out to her that a lot of work to help educate people was on Facebook, but not on the town website. Kimberley took that observation to heart and worked on a document for the town website.

8. Questions and Answers

At the last meeting, the committee had worked on questions. Now the committee needed to talk about answers. The meeting shifted into a working session. The Q&A document was worked on. Questions were put into order. Answers were discussed.

John McGilvray asked what would happen if the Warner Fire & Rescue needed to purchase more equipment. Where would it go?

Peter said that Engine 1 would need to be replaced one day. He did not envision purchasing equipment unless it was replacing something else. Even if going to an ambulance, Rescue 2 could be replaced, but going to an ambulance was not something the town wanted to do. If the town wanted to one day go to full time, then the building would need to be extended back to add sleeping quarters. Peter said if someone donated a small piece of equipment, like a heavy rescue, again, it would be replacing Rescue 1.

Howard noted that while living in Warner he had seen so many projects; the transfer station, an expanded library, a new public works building, a new police station, even renovation at Riverside Park. He felt it was time for the fire station.

John asked Jonathan about the warrant articles for the Warner Village Water District. Jonathan passed the list of articles to John.

9. Next Meeting

The Public Hearing was scheduled for Thursday, February 22. After that, the next meeting would be scheduled. Kimberley said she may send material to the committee to proofread.

In the meantime, she asked that committee members hang out at the Transfer Station and answer any questions that come up.

10. Adjournment

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Janice and Peter to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Brown Edlmann
Recording Secretary