



Warner Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
APPROVED

Chairman Hartman opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Selectman David E. Hartman – Chairman, Clyde Carson – Selectman, Allan N. Brown – Selectman, and Jim Bingham – Town Administrator

Others present: Fire Station Staff, Howard Kirchner, Martha Mical, Barbara Annis, Rebecca Courser, John Leavitt

1. Site for the New Fire Station

The Town Administrator created a questionnaire for the meeting members to complete with the hopes it will provide the direction in which to proceed.

1. What were the reasons this site was chosen (Map 29 Lot 1).

- Historically, the site was identified by the Fire Department as the future site for a new Fire Station
- Chosen because it was close to the center of Town
- It was available at a fair selling price
- Most of the calls are from the center of Town heading east
- Less neighbor disturbance
- A site was needed to apply for Homeland Security Grants

It was stated that the Selectman's office sent letters to property owners on Main St. asking if anyone was willing to sell their property, but there was no response

Chairman Hartman said that an optional site was offered to the Town back in 2004 for consideration.

Martha Mical said there was a site committee developed which agreed with the site that was chosen.

2. Why does this site work for the Fire Department.

- Adequate line of site
- More space is needed and the site provides the ability to expand
- Centrally located
- The location would not add to the 4 minute response time
- Majority of calls are historically on the east side of town
- More parking
- Central to the staff

3. What are the draw backs of this building site.

- Site could be larger to accommodate drive through capabilities
- Site could be larger for expansion
- The Warner River inhibits this site
- Costs to repair river bank
- No room to accommodate regional training
- Building design is site specific
- No water and sewer connection
- High cost for site preparation
- A collector for waste water is needed
- Erosion and flood hazard

Chairman Hartman asked if Property Liability was asked if they would insure the building, this needs to be known.

Howard Kirchner asked if the Conservation Commission had any input on this site. Rich Stanley said in the early stages he met with the Conservation Commission.

4. On a scale from 1 to 10, based on what is known about the site and building how would you rate this site.

- 3
- 2
- 5
- 7
- 4

Rich Stanley said site location is more important than the building itself, for example Exit 9 is not acceptable.

Selectman Brown asked the Fire Chief when he feels a full time Fire Station would be needed. Ed Raymond said when the Town's population reaches 5,000, but if Exit 9 booms, that prediction could change dramatically. Selectman Carson said another trend to add is the lack of volunteerism in the future for the Fire Department, plus the Route 89 corridor that travels through Town as well.

The Town Administrator asked since the majority of the calls are medical, what would the time frame would be for response if Warner did not have any EMTs available. Ed Raymond said the response time would increase from 5 to 15 minutes more depending what Town responds. The Town Administrator said the Town is trying to balance the tax rate, services, and the expectations that people have. The advantage Warner has is increased commercial development will increase calls but the tax base coming from the commercial development will cover that increase cost for services.

5. List the features of an ideal site for a new Fire Station.

- Drive thru building
- 3 acres of buildable size
- Room for expansion
- Centrally located
- Water & sewer
- High and dry
- Separation of office and apparatus space
- Room for parking during trainings
- Minimal site work
- Visibility/line of site
- 3 phase power

Board Action

Selectman Brown made a motion to create a new Site Committee that consists of a member from the Board of Selectmen, Fire Chief, Budget Committee and a member from the public. The charge would be to study new building sites excluding the State shed, having the Committee report to the Board of Selectmen by July 1, 2014. Chairman Hartman seconded the motion. Selectman Carson asked if a member of the Conservation Commission should be included as well, and Chairman Hartman recommended the Town Administrator as well. Selectman Brown said he wants to see any site even if it's not available. Howard Kirchner asked if the purpose of the Committee is to pick an alternate site. Selectman Brown said no, to study new sites. Selectman Brown amended the motion to include the Town Administrator and a Conservation Commission member to the Committee. Chairman Hartman seconded the motion. The Town Administrator asked if there should be another member from the Fire Station besides the Chief as well. Chairman Hartman amended the motion to add another fire member. Selectman Brown seconded the amendment. Selectman Carson would like to hear progress reports before July 1. A report can be provided during a Selectman's meeting. Chairman Hartman called for a vote. All were in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Chairman Hartman recommended Selectman Brown as the Board's representative to the Site Committee.

Barbara Annis asked where will the minutes from this committee be available. The Town Administrator said the minutes will be available on the Town's website.

Rebecca Courser feels it is very important the public is well informed in advance of any meetings and information pertaining to the new fire station. She recommended that an update be provided in the Newsletters as well.

It was asked what the status is on the vacant State shed located down by the Transfer Station. This may be an option to consider if no other site can be found. Selectman Brown did some research and said the property is not listed as State surplus, but he would like to research other sites before considering the State shed site.

2. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:35 pm.

Board of Selectmen
David E. Hartman – Chairman
Clyde Carson
Allan N. Brown

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Whalen
Recording secretary