

NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2020

Draft

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Bruce Seely, Chair.

Committee members present: Josh Maxham, Bruce Maxham, Steve Tarleton and Nancy Robinson

In attendance were 26 voters of the Town of Bridgewater and 2 members of the community.

Allan Stein, VT Standard Reporter

Bruce thanked everyone for coming out this evening and Alice Paglia for the use of the Grange Hall.

Bruce gave a history of the project consisting of who the committee is comprised of and how they were formed and charged with investigating a plan and cost estimates for a new community building fire station and rescue squad. Committee members took information to Selectboard in November of 2019 and the Selectboard voted to move forward with a stand-alone fire and rescue building only at a cost of 1.8 million.

Committee contracted NBF Architects of Rutland and Willis Engineering of Woodstock and obtained scaled blueprints and schematic plans for a new building, completed soil borings, property survey, geotechnical report, site plan including parking, water runoff, well location, sewer hook-up and a conceptual cost estimate. New building consists of 6,225 sq. ft and will be fully sprinkled as required by code, a generator to power the entire facility. The emergency-rescue building will include 4 apparatus bays, small meeting room, gear and decontamination room, office space for the fire department and rescue squad and a work/storage area. Current fire house building is not large enough for all of the equipment, building is not structurally sound, roof is pitched toward doors which is unsafe and creates a time barrier when the firemen have to shovel the snow out of the way of the doors. The current building is too close to Route 4 creating traffic hazards. Parking for firemen is inadequate, cannot properly dry hoses, no ventilation, cannot store everyone's gear, cannot wash apparatus or equipment or repack hoses inside the building and cannot decontaminate gear, equipment and personnel. Discussion that if the town did not have a fire department, town would have to contract with neighboring departments and homeowners would see an increase in their insurance due to distance from other fire stations.

Committee has explored options of building sites and found the town property to be the most useable. Have also looked at several building material types including concrete and steel. Cost estimates for building types comes in at approx. 1.8 million no matter material type.

How will this new building impact the taxpayer – Jerry Oppenheimer has produced an interactive spreadsheet showing the loan of 1.8 and individual's property assessment to get an idea of tax implication to each taxpayer. Bruce can send the interactive spreadsheet to anyone who wishes to get one and has excel. Expected to go to bond vote in March. Cost may be lowered due to grant opportunities, fundraising and volunteer time.

Bruce and Josh took questions from the public- use and outcome of current fire station, ability to add on community room in future and general building questions.

Bruce thanks everyone again for coming out this evening. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Robinson*

Nancy Robinson,

Clerk

29 totals in attendance