

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2011 PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRE STATION

Board members present were Gene Armstrong, Dan Champney, Ron Lafreniere and David Parot. Also present were Town Clerk Deborah La Rivière, Fire Chief Mike Gervia, several fire fighters and about ten residents. The hearing was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Fire Chief Mike Gervia handed out a breakdown of costs associated with the proposed renovations for the fire station. Repairs will include a new roof, plumbing and electrical as well as gutting the interior. It was explained that the dollar amount on the hand-out was only a figure to get the issue on to the floor. Even though it will be used as the amount on the ballot, it could still be cut if construction gets approved.

Pete Siegel: There's a line for management, will that amount disappear if a volunteer manager is found?

David Parot: It could, however, there could be a number of meetings that take place during regular working hours and someone will have to get paid for those.

Mike Thompson: Is there any Homeland Security money available for this project?

Gervia: I have looked and there isn't any left at this point. We have whittled this amount down since we started.

Tony Wheelock: Why is the plumbing figure so high? And, do we really need the parking lot sealed?

Gervia: Currently, nothing in either bathroom works. The paving can be taken off the list.

Thompson: Why do we need a generator?

Parot: The station could be used as an emergency center.

Lisa Fuller: Are we going to be looking locally for contractors?

Gervia: Yes, we'll look in Bolton first, then locally in neighboring towns.

Ron Lafreniere: What about the request for the 2,000 gallon water tank? How do those work?

Gervia: The tank would go in the far bay and be plumbed in. It would probably hang from the ceiling. It would save a lot of time late at night when we return from a fire.

Siegel: What type of heat are we using? And can we lower the ceilings?

Gervia: Propane and will continue to use propane. If we use spray insulation, we can't lower the ceilings.

Fire Fighter

Alex McDonald: At this point, something has to be done. The roof leaks, the bathrooms are non-functioning and the windows are all rotted.

Gervia: We'd like to be able to do one thing at a time, over a longer period, but as soon as we apply for a permit for a new roof, it's going to trigger Labor and Industry.

Tom May: Is the roof rotted?

Gervia: Yes, it's the original roof and it's metal screwed to metal and is rusted and has holes.

May: Is it leaking or just condensation?

Gervia: No, it's leaking.

Thompson: What are we looking at for a loan term?
Parot: 20 years maximum.
Siegel: We need to be concerned with elderly taxpayers. We already added 3¢ per hundred this year with the Notch Road work and now we're talking about another 3¢ .
Ron Lafreniere: For a number of years, there's been no maintenance on this building. It's no different than your own home, if nothing ever gets fixed, it deteriorates. We'll look at the budget and make it less if we can. We owe it to the firefighters to give them a decent station to work out of.
Fuller: Will there be a bid in the Free Press and the newsletter?
Parot: Yes. And, we will discuss it at town meeting.

There were no other questions or comments. The hearing was adjourned at 7:10.

Attest:

Deborah La Rivière
Town Clerk