

FIRE FACILITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017
COMPANY #1 FIRE STATION, 25 DARLING DRIVE

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Fire Facility Assessment Meeting was called to order by Jim Speich at 6:12 p.m. in the Company #1 Fire Station, 25 Darling Drive. Members present: Rob Shillington, Jim Speich, Jamie DiPace, and non-voting member Brandon Robertson. Member Michael Trick was absent. Also in attendance was staff member Assistant to the Town Manager, Grace Tiezzi.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: September 7, 2017

Mr. Shillington made a motion to approve the September 7, 2017 minutes as written. Mr. DiPace seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

No audience.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Speich stated that a memo has been drafted by Town staff in terms of summarizing the discussions of the Fire Facility Assessment Committee meetings, as well as a possible recommendation to the Town Council. The idea is that, if there are not any major changes to this draft, it will be sent to the Town Council. He stated that he has read the document and feels that it expresses what the Committee has been discussing, and the comments and attachments are appropriate. He does not have any changes to this recommendation.

Mr. Shillington stated that he felt this document read well and he does not have any changes.

Mr. Speich stated that Mr. DiPace had suggested a regional solution, which is represented in this document. Mr. DiPace stated that he feels the regional idea should be examined further. Mr. Speich stated that a regional dispatch would be necessary. Mr. DiPace agreed that without this in place, a regional solution would be more difficult. He stated that the State is pushing for Towns to get 911 phones in terms of getting equipment and funding; the State is pushing for regional concepts. Mr. Robertson stated that he has recently been appointed to the e-911 Commission. He stated that the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) have been under a lot of pressure to consolidate. Also, he stated that the e-911 system is currently funded through a surcharge on the telephone. Last year, the legislature did talk about raiding this charge to subsidize the general fund.

Mr. Speich stated that he believes that a regional solution could be the right solution to get the best fire service to the residents. He stated that Company 2 would still remain even if there was a regional solution. Mr. DiPace stated that if it was a true regional solution, the Town could consider merging with Canton by putting both Town's fire equipment into one building in order to respond that way. He believes this would be a reasonable and feasible solution.

Mr. Speich stated that it is clear, through all of these points that the Committee members would like to see the Secret Lake station close. Waiting for a regional solution would not be a timely solution.

Mr. DiPace questioned if rebuilding on the parcel in Secret Lake was still a consideration. Mr. Robertson stated that under the bullet heading, Complete Upgrades to the Existing Stations, it states, "...there is limited space on these parcel for expansion that will still allow for adequate parking and movement of apparatus. Companies 2 and 3 are landlocked with no room for expansion". He stated that there is also language regarding Company 2. Mr. Robertson stated that further analysis could be done of the site, although his take away from the meetings has been, that this station is not optimally located. It is not just the building, but primarily, it is the location. Mr. Speich suggested pulling some of the language out of this bullet point for a tear down of the existing Company 2 as well as to address some of the thought around that, which could be address in a separate bullet point.

Mr. Robertson stated that if the drafted recommendation summarized and represented the discussions of this Committee, it could be put into a slightly different format, amended to address some of the discussion around Company 2 and then forwarded to the Town Council. The Committee members agreed.

Mr. DiPace made a motion to recommend the contents of the memo dated September 26, 2017 with the amendments discussed by the Committee to the Town Council for review. Mr. Shillington seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Robertson stated that the final document will go to the Town Council at their November or December meeting, although he will mention it during the next meeting under "Manager Report". He stated that the Council will first need to receive the report; the Council can then accept the report and decide who adopts the statement of need. The statement of need is required by the Public Building Policy. The Council can adopt the statement or delegate it to an appointed Building Committee. He stated that the next step after that would be to appoint a Building Committee to get started on the design development process.

V. DISCUSS FUTURE MEETING DATE/SCHEDULE

No discussion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiPace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Mr. Shillington seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

James E. Speich
Chairman