

Minutes September 28, 2021

Present: Tom Finnegan, Harry Nelson, Wes Staples, Bob Bartlett, Graham Gitchell, Scott Talbot, Randall Walter, Mike Petrovick, Selena Gallen, Andy Mackey

Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting were accepted on a motion by Harry which was seconded by Scott.

Tom began the meeting by stating that two things needed to be discussed and voted upon so the committee could proceed to the warrant to be presented at the March Town Meeting.

First: Design

Tom, Harry, Scott and Bob proceeded to state their opinions relative to the present design. Among the comments made:

- (a) the present design is not obtrusive, is cost effective, and will complement the Town Hall;
- (b) the professional design is efficient, low-cost maintenance, and an energy efficient structure;
- (c) the majority of people accepted the plan at the 3/20 Town Meeting so change in design would only create more issues;
- (d) what is the price difference if the roof line is changed?
- (e) there is a need to justify the cost.

With six committee members present, the vote was five Yes, 0 No, and one Abstention

In the discussion that followed, it was explained that the committee needs bullets of merit of the current design. The concept of a gable roof would only increase the cost, add unnecessary volume, and change the character of the building. A lower pitched roof building is very rare in the center. The current shed roof is efficient and provides good water runoff to the rear of the building, while the flat roof provides exterior space for easy access to the mechanical items. It is important that people understand that the fire station is critical infrastructure, not only for the firefighters, but for the large investment in equipment housed within it.

Second: Cost

The committee realizes that the major issue now is to consider cost-lowering measures. The contingency costs listed on budget listings are variable and can be lowered, as there is a volatile market on construction prices. The design plans can cost roughly 14% of the building cost. The building is a government building, so certain standards apply which make this construction very different from barns, garages, homes, etc. This building needs to be constructed to withstand major weather situations and remain standing, as it must accommodate people in peril. There are also energy standards which must be met (insulation, etc.). Tom will reach out to Steve Horton to determine the feasibility of adjusting the price.

From there, various funding options were discussed. Among them was the Fire Station Construction Grant that is coming up before Congress. Westmoreland definitely qualifies for the grant, and various members have reached out to our state representatives to express the town's interest in applying for funds from the \$1 billion grant.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Bartlett