

Rochester Taxpayers Coalition

P.O. Box 181 Rochester, MA 02770 RochesterTaxpayers@Proton.me

TAXPAYER UPDATE

- Rochester Town Officials have ***now consumed \$215,000 of taxpayer money*** looking at building a new fire station, ***with nothing to show for it.***
- And they still have not released the Feasibility Study to the residents. **Why not?**

*“We did do the feasibility study, as we talked about. We do have that number. We do have that packet. I think our first process should be to move that out to the public, so that they can see the project that we already paid to take a look at, and we can get that out through the town’s website—get that on the town’s website, so that they can identify that **obviously that’s not going to be ideal.**”*

– Selectman Adam Murphy (ORCTV video, May 20, 2024)

BUT

*“If we would have gone to the voters with what that feasibility study said, they **would have tarred and feathered us...**”*

- Selectman Paul Ciaburri (Sippican Week, March 5, 2024)

- **We obtained a copy** of the Feasibility Study, through a “public records request.” Key conclusions:
 - The Study alone cost taxpayers ~ \$100,000!
 - The project that Rochester Town Officials asked the consultants to examine, consisting of 3 separate buildings, would cost over \$54 million of taxpayer money!
 - **Even the “Estimated Probable Total Project Cost” for just a “Fire Headquarters” would be \$29,258,670, plus interest. And “costs increase significantly” above that (due to inflation) if construction was not performed in 2024 / 2025, which, obviously, is not happening.**
- **What would a new fire station mean for you? See next page!**

HOW MUCH WOULD A NEW FIRE STATION COST *YOU*?

If your home is valued at	Approximate amount you would pay in additional taxes*
\$200,000	\$5,760
\$300,000	\$8,640
\$400,000	\$11,520
\$500,000	\$14,400
\$600,000**	\$17,280**
\$700,000	\$20,160
\$800,000	\$23,040
\$900,000	\$25,920
\$1,000,000	\$28,800

*Assumes \$29,258,670 cost from Feasibility Study; debt is paid over 20 years; if financed over more years, your cost would be higher
 **Approximate average assessed value of a single family home in Rochester

- With inflation, your additional taxes would be even more. ***Even if the projected cost were to be cut by 1/3 and with NO inflation, a family in a home valued at \$600,000 would still pay \$11,520 for a new fire station!***
- THIS IS **NOT FEASIBLE FOR MANY ROCHESTER TAXPAYERS!**
- THERE ARE **VIABLE ALTERNATIVES** WHICH WOULD COST MUCH, MUCH LESS, BUT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE IS NOT PURSUING THEM!
- **Questions that must be asked:**
 - **What's the end goal? Equipment storage? Living space for firefighters? Or just a shiny new building to "keep up with the Joneses"?**
 - **What is the least-cost way of meeting the real needs, if any?**
- **URGE YOUR TOWN OFFICIALS TO STOP HIDING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY!**

Join our Email List: email us at RochesterTaxpayers@Proton.me