

Minutes April 1, 2021

Present: Tom Finnegan, Harry Nelson, Wes Staples, Bob Bartlett, Graham Gitchell, Clyde Simino, Scott Talbot, and citizens Jon Lounsbury, Dave Bressett, Andy Mackey, Selena Gallen, and Tracey Brown

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting were accepted on a motion by Harry which was seconded by Scott.

Tom began by announcing that he and Scott had a conference with John Snowdon, Alan Bell, and JJ Prior to discuss plans to produce videos and information about the fire department and the station, at no cost to the town. This would include open houses. Motion was made by both Scott and Harry to enter into this agreement.

The citizens who attended made it clear that they were not adequately informed as to the cost and details of the new station. The questions they raised were each addressed as having been covered by the committee in the course of the four years of meetings for decision making. The main issues appear to be location and price. Some of the suggestions mentioned included only the exterior structure. The cost estimate prepared by Steve Horton includes site work and interior needs. The bottom line covers the entire project.

It was clearly stated that all of the concerns had been thoroughly discussed by the committee and Select Board. Much discussion ensued as to how the committee came to the current decision. The consensus is the Board of Selectmen, along with the committee, need to do a major public education effort to cover every conceivable issue.

It was pointed out that the committee is strictly advisory and the BOS is responsible for getting the public up to date on this need. It was also pointed out that every concern mentioned had been discussed by the committee in the past and minutes were on the town website. Also pointed out was that the price estimate came from Steve Horton, who was hired by the town to do just that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Bartlett