

Minutes January 14, 2019

Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee

Present: Tom Finnegan (Committee Chairman), Harry Nelson, Graham Gitchell, Bob Bartlett, Wes Staples, Clyde Simino, Scott Talbott, and residents Jason Bafundi and Randall Walter.

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm

The focus of the meeting was to clarify the amount to be requested on the 2019 Town Meeting warrant to take the next steps toward construction design. The costs for the construction of the new station in West Brattleboro were mentioned, but not deemed relevant. Differences in the design were also pointed out, further distancing the discussion from the numbers presented.

The previous estimate for a request of \$94,000 was questioned in detail. Various amounts were then considered for reasonableness. The whole formula for the request was determined by the projected square footage of 9,000 square feet, at an industry standard of \$130/ft<sup>2</sup>. After some extensive research by committee members, it was determined that that amount was far too low. A more accurate figure was \$210/ft<sup>2</sup>, which led to re-examination of the square footage needed. The Scully report had recommended just under 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, and the present area of 3,800 ft<sup>2</sup> doubled would be a new footprint of 7600 ft<sup>2</sup>. The committee decided 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup> would be reasonable, if the architect chosen by RFP could be creative and incorporate all the needs and code requirements within that base. To that end, with the more updated estimate of \$210/ft<sup>2</sup>, the amount to be requested on the town warrant was decided upon as \$168,000, or 10% of the projected construction cost. This puts the committee in a position of drawing more responses to the RFP, and then selecting an architect to begin the design process.

The minutes from the December 20, 2018, and January 3, 2019, meetings were read and accepted.

Graham gave a PowerPoint presentation portraying the history of the Westmoreland Fire Department, the current condition of the facility, then the process that has brought the committee to this stage of requesting architectural and design work for a new facility which will be safe and meet the fire station building codes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett