

Minutes – July 30, 2019

Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee

Present: Tom Finnegan (Committee Chairman), Wes Staples, Bob Bartlett, Harry Nelson, Scott Talbot, Graham Gitchell. and Russ Austin.

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

Minutes of the July 18 meeting were read and accepted.

Tom began the meeting by stating that since there was no decision received regarding the Bensonwood proposal, it would not be included in the discussion of the proposals. This was debated and determined that to avoid a second meeting including Bensonwood, should the decision allow that, the committee should proceed with all five proposals. The question was again raised as to whether the committee was allowed to contact individual companies regarding details of their proposal. By the end of the meeting it had been determined that Russ would contact the League of Cities and Towns and ask their opinion, as well as contacting Town Counsel. Committee members are also free to contact any company or department which is listed as a reference.

As the replies to the RFP were considered, it was noted that BR Hamilton Architects had submitted relatively little information, and had experience primarily designing auto dealerships, had no design experience with fire stations, and did not list their sub-contractors. KCS Architects listed some known designers, hired local builders, and were considered as a possibility. The proposal submitted by Scully Architects was questionable due to its assumed value of the building construction and the percentage fee schedule. Bensonwood itself has no experience with designing fire stations, but one of their design architects, Catlin & Petrovick, has excellent credentials in that area. Bensonwood also offered proximity to the town, employs Westmoreland residents, and appears well suited to design/build a station which would fit and reflect the town's character. They also have a fine reputation of building a quality product. The combination of Bensonwood and Catlin & Petrovick was impressive. A motion was made and seconded to eliminate BR Hamilton and Scully Architects from the possibilities.

Russ clarified that to his knowledge not one member of the Selectboard is against the project, offered to clear up the issue of questions to the remaining proposers, and corrected the dates of the next BOS meetings as August 8 and 29.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on Tuesday, August 6.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett