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Proposed Town of Westmoreland Fire Station

February 16, 2021



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Following the completion of the January 2017 Fire Station Assessment Summary – Recommendation completed by Scully Architects, The Westmoreland Select Board and Fire Department formed the Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee to oversee the evaluation of options for replacing the existing Fire Station.

The architectural study looked at the current and long-term needs for the Fire Department when evaluating the existing building. The study determined the existing Fire Station, constructed in 1954, to be outdated and inadequate to serve the Town and its first responders safely. The Station is undersized, does not meet health and life safety code requirements, along with many other challenges. The Study further determined there was no feasible solution to renovating the existing building to eliminate the problems.

Specifically, the issues are:

- Close proximity to Rt. 63 not allowing apparatus to be parked on the apron in front of the building safely
- Location of the existing building and apron to Route 63 creating an unsafe turning situation for apparatus turning onto NH Route 63
- ADA Accessibility Issues
- Limited building and apparatus door heights requiring apparatus to be custom ordered
- Fire and Emergency personal procedures now call for protective gear to be clean after each incident at the Fire Station following each call
- Lack of storage for newer equipment



SITE

The committee studied several sites in town, including the existing site. The existing site was determined to be the best available location for Westmoreland's Fire Station. The location is central within the community for visibility and ease of access for emergency response times.

The Committee engaged Rob Hitchcock, PE of SVE Associates to evaluate the existing site with regards to available land area on the site for building, building location and size, and available safe access onto NH Route 63.

The design for the site yields a 7,000 SF building footprint located to provide safe vehicular maneuvering on site and NH DOT approved access to and from the site from NH Route 63. The site does have some areas of wetlands as defined by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) located at the southern portion of the site. The site design by SVE has addressed the wetlands in accordance with NH DES design criteria. The design for the site accounts for a new septic system shared with Town Hall, along with the other infrastructure required to support the building.



PROPOSED BUILDING

Following the evaluation and engineering of the site plan, the Town selected Keene-based Michael Petrovick Architects in early 2020 to assist with designing a new fire station for the existing site. Randall Walter, AIA, resident of Westmoreland, is on the architectural team for the project. For several months, the Committee and the architect engaged in a lively design process to evaluate the needs of the Fire Department.

The proposed fire station is 6,400 square feet and includes three areas standard to fire station design practices: the hot zone, the warm zone, and the cold zone.

New fire stations are designed to prioritize health and safety of responders, technology, storage, and ease of use. Due to the composition of modern building materials which, when they burn in building fires, cause contaminants to collect on firefighter's gear.

The **hot zone** focuses on providing firefighters and emergency personnel a safe area where their gear is cleaned, and they may shower and change clothes to prevent contaminants from leaving the station and potentially harming them or their family members.

The **warm zone** is primarily where equipment is housed. Access to this area is controlled to reduce exposure to contaminants which may remain on equipment following cleaning.

The **cool zone** is space separated from the potentially contaminated hot zone and warm zone. The cold zone is further separated into public and administrative areas. The public space includes access to the multi-purpose meeting and training room with restroom. This meeting room will also serve as the Town's emergency operations center (EOC) when needed. The administrative area includes offices dedicated to the operations of the Fire Department.



The exterior of the proposed Fire Station is a modern design inspired by the historic architecture of the community. By demonstrating restraint in the exterior design and detailing, the primary focus of the construction budget is on a progressive interior which provides a safe, healthy environment for the Town's volunteer emergency personnel. The low roofs allow for the historic Town Hall to be clearly visible above the fire station. The materials for the exterior of the proposed building will be harmonious with the classic village style, yet durable and requiring lower maintenance leading to lower cost of ownership.



BUDGET

The total budgeted cost for design and construction is \$2.3 million (based on current market costs for construction). This includes \$300,000 (13%) for site construction costs. This budget is based upon current market cost of construction for Cheshire County for projects of similar size and scope.

This has been prepared by the Westmoreland Fire Department Advisory Committee. If you have any questions, please contact:

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More information is also available on the Town Website: westmorelandnh.com