

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS 2021 Fire Station Building Committee Meeting

Meeting Called By: 2021 FSBC

Date, Time: 02/09/2022, 5:00 PM

Transcribed By: Beth Joslin

Location: Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer St, Northfield

Call to Order

Kevin Cate called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Attendance

Commissioner Jon Cilley, Kevin Cate, Tim Sattler, and Chief Michael Sitar

Attending by phone: Kevin Waldron

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Tim commented that there was one spot in the minutes where he was identified as the wrong name.

Tim made a motion to accept the minutes of January 12 as written after the correction is made. Commissioner Cilley seconded the motion. There being no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.

Correspondence

02.07.22 REI Service Corporation

- Alan Clark sent a letter withdrawing his proposal (date 2/1/22) to work on the Fire Station project.

Chief Sitar stated that they discussed the letter last night at the Commissioners' meeting and the Commissioners asked that he contact Alan Clark for recommendations for other companies, which he did today and is waiting for a reply.

Commissioner Cilley stated that he was disappointed and shocked that Alan didn't think they could build something for \$4 million.

Kevin C stated that they could not deny his experience but that he felt from the presentations that it was his way or the highway and didn't appear that there was a willingness to look at something less than what he believed the district needed. He also found it disturbing that he referenced a number of times that this project was not feasible to service the district for the next 25 years. Kevin C stated that the previous committee had decided that this station would suit their needs now and he would support a sub station in the future because he feels it is needed, and though needed now he doesn't believe it will be endorsed by they public.

Tim commented that Alan pointed out concerns that he and others who were not present have had. Those being voters not easily convinced it is a viable solution and the cost and location have both been a sticking point

Tim commented that the location may not be a problem if it's a better cost, or present to build a second station down the road. He expressed concern that they have little committee support and the firefighters don't seem in favor of 2 station solution. Alan just pointed it out but they are the same concerns that he has that they will all need to overcome. Don't sweep Alan's opinion under the rug.

Kevin C doesn't believe that they can assume Tilton Residents will be opposed to a station in Northfield. Tim replied that Northfield residents would not support a previous proposed station because it was a bit further into Tilton than the current Center St Station.

Kevin C questioned that if crews from Center St & Park St were to go to Market Basket at the same time, he bet that they would arrive at about the same time. Discussion ensued.

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Chief Sitar discussed where the concentration of calls were located and talked about response times.

Kevin C commented on Firefighters not backing station. He commented on Derek's statement from first meeting that he was concerned that it would come down to a new station or personnel. and if it came down to it he would rather stay at Center St and keep the additional crew. Kevin C stated that they can't stay at Center St because eventually the insurance company or someone is going to say no. Chief noted that the department has remedied the concerns other than ADA accessibility

Chief Sitar commented that they have not discussed what the building needs space wise. Kevin C commented that they had a rough drawing they had sketched up in an earlier meeting. Chief commented that's its best to determine the spaces you need and give it to an architect.

Kevin W commented that he is not investing 100% in what employees want because they are going to come and go. He wants to provide a building that gets the job done, nothing more, nothing less. Nothing they come up with is going to make everyone happy.

Discussion ensued regarding expansion, building, & growth of the area.

Kevin C spoke about public awareness in order to get a building passed and his concerns about coming down to one or the other between station or keeping SAFER employees. He commented that he feels they don't need someone like Alan Clark at this stage, maybe in the future but they currently have very reputable contractors who are waiting to find out if they have been chosen to participate.

Kevin W asked about which of the contractors have built fire stations before, commenting that it would be easier working from basic existing plans. Kevin C added that it will be less expensive the fewer customizations they add. Discussion ensued regarding the contractor and architects experience with public service buildings.

Kevin C discussed potential spaces in the existing building. Tim commented that they would likely have to do major updates the current station if they were to put administration and bunk rooms in that space as Kevin C suggested. Kevin W stated that he feels they will find that it will be better to level the Park St station than to update it. Feels they should leave it alone and build beside it.

Kevin C stated that they have two priorities right now. membership and moving forward with interviewing contractors. He recommended that everyone take the time to review the proposals and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting on February 23 so they can decide who they want to move forward with.

The committee discussed creating a list of questions for the interviews and a list of spaces, labeled and understanding of how big they need to be.

Tim asked how many bays they would need in the new building, if they are keeping the existing bays. Kevin C commented that they at the very least need to replace what is at Center Street. They discussed adding more space to allow both ambulances to be more readily available.

Chief Sitar stated that the Fire Station Building Conference is coming up. He has attended a few times and didn't know if anyone from the committee would be interested. Discussion ensued and Chief Sitar will email the committee more details.

Adjournment

Kevin C adjourned the meeting at 6:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Joslin

Beth Joslin
Office Clerk

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place: February 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street, Northfield, NH