

TOWN OF LYNDEBOROUGH
Safety Complex and Other Options Committee
December 8, 2016
7:00 p.m. at Citizens' Hall
Final

Roll Call: Chairman John Pomer, Scott Roper, Mark Chamberlain, Bob Rogers and Wally Holt.

Minutes

VOTE: Bob Rogers made a motion, Mark Chamberlain seconded to approve the October 13, 2016 minutes amended. Motion passed 5-0.

Bob Rogers mentioned that the Harwood property next to the fire station will be going on the market and the owners might consider releasing the easement on the fire station property and consider selling a strip of land to the town.

It was noted that 5-miles measured from the Lyndeborough Fire Station to Mountain Road is located at Joan Dinsmore's property at 424 Mountain Road. Mutual Aid can cover up to Warner Road. Twenty-five homes are in the area not covered by fire stations from the various towns. A fire substation in the Center makes sense to help ease any insurance burden for those homes.

The majority of calls and homes are along Forest Road and the Committee felt it makes sense to keep the fire department in the village

Wally Holt proposed that Phil Brooks does an engineering review of the Old Town Barn in the Center to as a step to consider renovating the building to a fire substation. The building is in the historic area but is not listed as a historic building. Mr. Holt supports this effort because residents who live in the center might be able to obtain cheaper homeowners insurance and because it's is geographically located in the center of town. A hydrant at Badger Pond would be a possibility to help with insurance costs and water issues.

The Old Town Barn measures 1,400 square feet with 11 feet of height. The committee discussed the pros and cons of this location and converting the building. Pros are the building is paid for and a well is located at Center Hall. Cons are a bathroom, sprinkler system and locker area would be required. The Committee will seek feedback from the Fire Department.

The Committee would like to identify potential possibilities and estimated cost to present at Town Meeting 2017. This Committee was chartered to give a recommendation at Town Meeting 2018.

Mark Chamberlin volunteered to provide an estimate on site work and possibly provide ball park figures.

Utilizing some of the \$5,000 money that was set aside for the Safety & Other Options Committee for pre-work purpose was discussed and the Board will seek clarification if the \$5,000 figure is annually or for the term of the committee.

Last month Chairman Pomer attended a Selectmen's meeting to discuss establishing two separate CIP funds for the fire and police stations. The Selectmen recommended one CIP and will draft a Warrant Article.

There have been rumors that the Lyndeborough Central School (LCS) building could become available in the future. The committee discussed if this is a suitable location for a fire station or safety complex. Bob Rogers reminded the members that a former committee felt the LCS location was not suitable for the fire trucks because of the slab foundation. Mark Chamberlain requested blueprints of the school.

It was noted that homeowners outside the five-mile radius are not denied insurance coverage but the cost may be higher. Homeowners have the option to put in a fire suppression pond or dry hydrant to help reduce their insurance costs.

Most rural areas within the five-mile zones are put in the ISO Class 9. Milford for example has some areas in Class 5.

The question was asked when does it become cost effective for the town to provide for people who live in the outlying areas.

Scott Roper mentioned that in order to keep a fire station in the village money would be needed to renovate regardless of a substation in the center.

Summary:

- The Fire Department would like to be in the Village area.
- The Fire Department is willing to be in the Center if necessary.
- About 25 homes on Mountain Road need affordable insurance coverage.
- The present station is too small and too close to the road. New trucks cannot fit.
- The possibility of expanding to an abutting property if it becomes available.
- The possibility of the LCS building if it were to become available.
- The Goding property on Cemetery Road a possibility.
- Move forward with estimated figures.
- There are two possibilities in the center; a new substation or renovating the town barn on town-owned land.

-Chairman Pomer will meet with Fire Chief Brian Smith to inquire about their needs.

-Investigate if the police need a garage area and if it can be put on the back side of Citizens' Hall.

The Town Report deadline is January 12, 2017. Mr. Pomer will draft a report and send it to the rest of the committee for review and revisions. It was discussed if there should be a questionnaire in the "Lyndeborough Views" and available at town meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is January 12, 2017.

VOTE: Bob Rogers made a motion, Scott Roper seconded to adjourn at 8:11pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Humphreys