

# Safety Complex & Other Options Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**November 9, 2017**

*(Approved Dec. 14, 2017)*

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman John Pomer

Members Present: Chairman John Pomer, Scott Roper, Walter Holland, Wally Holt, Bob Rogers, Selectman Mark Chamberlain and Fire Chief Brian Smith

MINUTES:

**VOTE: Bob Rogers made a motion to accept the October 2017 minutes. Mark Chamberlain seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.**

The Committee concluded that after some research, the cost would be similar to renovate or build a new building at the Town Barn in the Center to house a fire substation and the Lafayette Artillery Company.

Scott Roper provided a handout from the Secretary of the Interior which outlined the guidelines for historic buildings in relation to Citizens' Hall and Center Hall.

It was noted, items #9 and #10, which relates with "massive size and scale", and if the town chose to build a new building in the Center then from the road it can't appear to be too big or distract from what is already there.

It was announce the Harwood property next to the fire station is under agreement with a potential buyer. The Harwood property holds the easement to the land the current fire station is on and the committee discussed the opportunity to purchase some land and clear the title of the easement.

Fire Chief Smith was asked if the Village area is the location the fire department would like to remain and Chief Smith felt it was a good location. If they can extend the property boundary about 120 feet to the left Chief Smith felt they could add two bays. They need to determine the Chase property line. It is not known if blasting would be necessary for construction. The current location is not within five miles of the entire town which could affect insurance rates outside the five mile radius.

Walter Holland voiced his concern about the town spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to alleviate someone's insurance costs. It was discussed the response time might not be any faster with a fire substation in the Center. Bob Rogers also noted that there have not been any complaints from residents in North Lyndeborough regarding their insurance rates. Andy Roeper asked the Committee to verify if the only solution to

the insurance rates is a fire substation vs a cistern system. Fire Chief Smith responded that the time is critical as to when a truck arrives on the scene and starts pumping water on the fire and a cistern helps with the water supply. The flow rate is very important. It takes a minimum of four firefighters to dispatch a fire truck.

The Committee discussed asking an insurance agent what the difference in the rates would be for various locations in town. Assessed valuation was discussed.

Bob Rogers expressed he is not sure a substation in the Center is the most efficient way to go and is not interested in this option.

The Committee discussed a Capital Improve Plan to possibly purchase future property.

The current fire station will require renovations to bring it up to standards such as new bathrooms. Questions were asked if the foundation is substantial to raise the roof. Chief Smith reported that Tim McEntee researched this and determined the building was not structurally designed to raise the roof. If the department stays on Rt. 31 and they can't expand the bays they will need to purchase custom trucks in the future.

It was debated if the town can't expand and chooses not to renovate the current property would it make sense to rebuild at another location.

Walter Holland suggested some of the Safety Committee & Other Options members attend the Budget Committee meeting in January when Government Buildings will be discussed.

#### TO DO ITEMS:

-Chairman Pomer will start summarizing the report for Town Meeting.

-Develop a Warrant Article if necessary.

-December 15, 2017 is the due date for the report for Town Meeting. The next meeting is December 14, 2017.

VOTE: Bob Rogers made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm. Andy Roeper seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Humphreys