

Safety Complex & Other Options Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2017

Approved on May 11, 2017

Roll Call: Chairman John Pomer, Walter Holland, Bob Rogers, Mark Chamberlain, Scott Roper, Andy Roeper. Wally Holt arrived while the meeting was in progress.

Chairman Pomer called the meeting to order by 7:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Vote: Bob Rogers made a motion, Mark Chamberlain seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

ACTION LIST:

-Look at what fire and police departments have compared to similar towns in the region. By September, compile possibilities to present to the town. This committee's charter ends at Town Meeting 2018.

-Tonight, members present their list of possible locations and ideas.

-Next month, review the lists and select which ones to present at Town Meeting along with the pros and cons of each option.

Mark Chamberlin's Fire Department idea list:

Existing fire station:

Advantage: Location.

Disadvantage: Size, small pad, utilities.

Center Hall Substation:

Town Barn:

Advantage: Existing building, location for center/east side of town.

Disadvantage: Extensive improvements needed.

New building in field behind barn/Center Hall:

Advantage: Location in center, use the septic system, town land.

Disadvantage: ledge, water.

Elementary School:

Advantage: Location is near most calls, recoup investment in emergency shelter.

Disadvantage: Need to research site/floor plan to see if conversion is practical.

Pinnacle Road:

Advantage: Close to center of town.

Disadvantage: Ledge, center road intersection.

Safety Building Combined:

Advantage: modern facility, shared infrastructure.

Disadvantage: Higher cost and limited support with fire and police being together.

Bob Roger's idea list:**New substation on town-owned land in center:**

Provides coverage to Mountain Road. Possibly uses Center Hall's water and septic but not sure how good the well in the center is. This location can be expensive and it duplicates safety equipment requirements.

Refurbish/Enlarge the shed in the Center as a substation:

Town-owned land in center. Provides better coverage to Mountain Road and the north side of town. Could possibly uses Center Hall's water and septic. This location can be expensive and it duplicates safety equipment requirements. Renovating the garage would be less expensive than building a new substation at this location.

Enlarge the current station by purchasing adjacent land:

The land may not be available or may be expensive. It does not solve the issues at present station. Does not provide 5-mile radius from station fire coverage to part of Mountain Road.

New Station on the Central School Site on Rt. 31:

Site may not become available and it could be expensive.

Does not provide 5-mile radius fire coverage to part of Mountain Road.

Will have to tear down and rebuild sections. It's has a pump septic system in the field.

New station on Godding land on Cemetery Road:

Needs road improvements.

New station would be expensive.

Does not provide 5-mile radius from station fire coverage to part of Mountain Road.

Mr. Rogers felt that the center would make better location for a main station and south Lyndeborough as fire substation.

The **Pinnacle Road** land was discussed. There was debate on the issue of ledge and water. Some members felt this would be reasonable to develop. It has two access roads, one which has a line of site issue. It is closer to Mountain Road. It was noted

the story map does indicate there might be some holes in the coverage on the north end of town.

Andy Roeper’s fire station idea list:

Mr. Roeper suggested focusing on a new fire station in center coupled with cistern sites and dry hydrant sites with the primary station in center and sub-station in the village. The town needs a “bigger box” for future fire stations.

Mark Chamberlain provided information that his company has installed hydrants that put out 30,000 gallons of water in the town of Bow for about \$8,000. Fiberglass material would be better than concrete which is permeable. This could be a low cost interim measure to pay long-term benefits and in part help lower insurance costs to homeowners.

Scott Roper’s Idea list:

He stated his thoughts have been covered by the previous presentations.

Walter Holland’s Fire Station Idea List:

Mr. Holland likes the field behind town hall for a fire station and the location at Lyndeborough Central School as a safety complex and town office as options if this becomes available. LCS has water, septic, on a major state highway, it’s the town’s emergency shelter with a generator, has parking and the furnace has been updated. Equipment bays would need to be built. Relocate the playground.

The Old Town Barn would fit one fire vehicle if renovated so it would be better served as a substation and would require duplication of fire equipment.

Chairman John Pomer mentioned that the fire department would like to stay on Rt. 31 because they do the majority of their rescue calls in the village area and that cisterns can reduce the insurance costs.

Mr. Rogers asked if anyone has been approached by Mountain Road residents that there is a problem with their home owners insurance coverage and the answer was no.

Wally Holt arrived at 7:29pm and presented building plans drawn by Phil Brooks. It is estimated the plans to renovate the barn in the Center could cost \$200,000-\$300,000.

Scott Roper added if the decision was to build a substation in the Center and continued to use the current fire station as a substation, it would still require money to bring the current building up to code.

The abutting property owned by the Harwood family on Forest Road is for sale and the town could possibly purchase a strip of land from the new owners.

Mark Chamberlain's Police Station Idea List:

Citizens Hall:

Expensive

Advantage: Provide adequate space, police stay close to the town office.

Disadvantage: Limited room inside.

OEC Garage on Center Road:

Advantage: Store vehicles in the garage, time, and vehicle life cycle can be extended.

Disadvantage: Limited space and does not solve office space issues.

Central School:

Advantage: On 31, recoup investment.

DISADVANTAGE: Away from town offices, extensive reconstruction.

Andy Roeper wondered if the material staging area on Welch's property on Mountain road might be a good location if that becomes available.

It was mentioned that Carl Weatherbee's house in the Center up for sale with 1.5 acres.

Action item for the next meeting:

Present pros and cons to the ideas presented tonight.

VOTE: Bob Rogers made a motion, Andy Roper seconded to adjourn at 7:52pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is May 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Humphreys