

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
FIRE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES – April 4, 2019

Northborough Free Library, 34 Main Street, Northborough, MA

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Board of Selectmen

Present were Dawn Rand, Jason Perreault, Leslie Rutan, Tim Kaelin and Julianne Hirsh

Appropriations Committee

Present were Elaine Kelly, Richard Nieber, Anthony Poteete and Janice Hight

Financial Planning Committee

Present were T. Scott Rogers and William Peterson.

Fire Station Building Committee

Present were Dawn Rand, Chief David Parenti, Daniel Brillhart, Jamie Desautels, Elaine Kelly, Richard Smith and Mitch Cohen.

Others

Also present were Town Administrator John Coderre, Assistant Town Administrator Kimberly Foster, Finance Director Jason Little and Jeff Davis and Stewart Roberts from Johnson Roberts Associates Inc.

7:00 p.m. - PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FIRE STATION BUILDING PROJECT AND TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE #20

Chairman Rand called the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Appropriations Committee, Financial Planning Committee and Fire Station Building Committee to order.

Mr. Coderre introduced Architects Stewart Roberts and Jeff Davis from Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc. Mr. Roberts briefly reviewed the Feasibility Study, which commenced with a review of the constraints and opportunities of the existing station located at 11 Pierce Street. While the existing building has been well maintained, a number of building systems (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) are antiquated and in need of updating, but the overarching constraints pertain to the building's inability to meet the department's current programmatic needs. Specifically, the approximately 11,000 square foot building was built in 1975 to support a volunteer department that did not operate an ambulance service (EMS responses are now 68% of the calls to which the department responds); there is inadequate space for 22 full-time personnel the department currently supports; there are no facilities for female firefighters; and there is inadequate space for existing apparatus and equipment.

Based on the Fire Station Building Committee's prior vote recommending the Town proceed with the purchase of 61-65 and West Main Street and 10 Monroe Street as the preferred site for a new station, Architect Stew Roberts presented and discussed the conceptual design for a new fire station at this location. The preliminary design included a site plan, first and second floor plans, with a low sloped roof design. Mr. Roberts stressed that this is an initial conceptual design to bring to Town Meeting in order to move forward with the next phase of the project, which will produce more specific designs to be considered with many opportunities for public input. Regarding the timeframe to build a new Fire Station, final design and bidding will begin later this year and into early 2020. Appropriations for construction and project expenses will be sought at the April 2020 Town Meeting. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the summer of 2020.

Mr. Coderre reviewed Warrant Article 20 which provides funds to begin Phase I of the site acquisition and design of the new fire station. The proposed funding source is \$2.1 million in new bonds and \$1.38 million in repurposed bond proceeds that were initially borrowed to finance the now complete Lincoln Street School Addition/Renovation project. These funds can only be used for another debt-excluded project with a 20-year life and would offset future costs of a fire station renovation/addition project. The appropriation under this article will be contingent upon a successful debt exclusion vote, under the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, at the May 14, 2019 Town Election.

Following the presentation questions and comments were heard from several Board and Committee members, as well as members present in the audience.

Fire Chief Parenti invited anyone from the public to stop by the Fire Station with any questions or comments. Mr. Coderre thanked everyone for attending the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Foster
Assistant Town Administrator

Documents used during meeting

1. April 4, 2019 Joint Meeting Agenda.
2. Presentation Slides.