

Fire House #2 Building Committee



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**FIRE HOUSE #2 BUILDING COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
17 MAY 2016**

CTO

Chairman Rich McCarty called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were Committee Members Kevin Czarnecki, Ron Hitter, Phil Reeves, Ross Tartell and David Waters. Also in attendance were Chris Burney, Facilities Director of the Town of Wilton, Fire Chief Ron Kanterman, Deputy Chief Mark Amatrudo, Pat Russo (Wilton CERT), TG Rawlins (Wilton CERT), Dave Chaloux, Aaron Nachbar and members of the public.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted unanimously to scramble the agenda in order to address matters that were of interest to those persons not on the Committee that were attending the meeting.

UPDATE ON EXISTING SEPTIC SYSTEM

Mr. Burney informed the Committee that he had met with Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works, to review the approved plan on file for a new septic system at the current location. It had been assumed that this design would allow for approximately 6-7 occupants, but in actuality it is designed for 9 persons *per day*, resulting in three persons on three shifts. With newer available technology, this plan possibly could be modified to permit an additional 4-5 persons per day.

The Committee discussed the potential need of an EMS decontamination room and whether this would impact the septic system. Mr. Burney indicated that the appropriate design would incorporate a holding tank for decontamination fluids rather than allowing them to enter the septic system, so this would not be an issue.

The long term personnel need at this location is 4-6 people, with a capacity in storms of up to 8 persons, plus possibly EMS personnel. The Committee asked Chief Kanterman to provide such information as is available for the next meeting as to how many times in the past year more than the minimum personnel were present at the building. It was noted that the police and members of the public will occasionally make use of the facilities.

It was reported that there has not been a significant failure of the existing system following its installation in 1986. Chief Kanterman had a report from GHD, Inc. dated July 2014 with respect to the condition of the system.

The Committee expressed a desire for confirmation that a system can be provided that will address the needs of 4-6 persons at the facility on a regular basis. Mr. Burney agreed that he will contact GHD, Inc. or others to seek that information.

It was noted that if a reverse osmosis system for water quality is used, then 50% or more of the water generated will be waste water than cannot go into the septic system. The property is not large enough to provide for dissipation of this water on-site while maintaining the required 75' separation distance from a well.

UPDATE ON EXISTING WELL

Mr. Nachbar informed the Committee of his history with the property and other properties in proximity. In 1991 he provided a replacement well because the prior well had high sodium and chlorides which at the time he attributed to the use of ice melt in front of the bay doors. The replacement well is approximately 500' deep and originally generated 2 gallons/minute; it had high chlorides but the concentrations were dropping so it was deemed adequate at the time. Currently the well has poor quality with high acidity, coliform, e coli, iron, manganese, radon and chlorides. It generates 6 gallons/minute now which he attributes to different seams and places from which the well is drawing water.

Mr. Nachbar reported that a system to address water quality could include pre-treatment softener, followed by reverse osmosis, UV treatment, then neutralizing to increase pH and at that point the water would be appropriately usable. However, if the water generation were to revert to 2 gallons/minute then there would be insufficient water quantities for reverse osmosis, and at 6 gallons/minute the quantity is acceptable but the 50% discharge would exceed what could be absorbed on-site due to the required 75' separation from the station's well and the wells of adjoining neighbors.

One adjoining neighbor reported that their well is approximately 350-400' deep and they provided a water quality report which was reviewed by Mr. Nachbar. He noted that the neighbor's well has similar quality issues, but not as great as those at the station.

In November 2013 a proposal was made by Professional Water Systems to provide equipment including an aerator, UV, softener and neutralizer to solve the existing problems at a cost of approximately \$10,000, but this was not pursued because it did not appear to be a long term solution.

Mr. Nachbar indicated that a well located across the street at the 688 Ridgefield Road property would probably be the best solution. There had been a well there previously but he had not been able to locate it in a prior attempt. The total cost of this alternative would probably be approximately \$80,000, including trenching under Ridgefield Road.

This alternative would require the cooperation of the Land Trust as the owner of the property and permission from the State to trench under Ridgefield Road as a state road.

Another alternative would be to make use of the Vista Road site that was once contemplated for a school. A well was drilled there that generates 50 gallons/minute, and there would be no need to cross the state road, but it would require installation of a pipe either in the Ridgefield Road right of way, if permitted, or on private property.

Action Items: (1) Chief Kanterman will provide an executive summary of the prior investigations; and (2) Mr. Burney will (a) speak with the First Selectman to discuss approaching the Land Trust; (b) seek an answer as to whether a pipe from the Vista Road property can be located in the Ridgefield Road right of way; (c) seek clarification as to whether PURA has jurisdiction over an off-site well for this purpose; and (d) seek clarification as to DOT approval.

CERT INFORMATION AND EMD INFORMATION

Deputy Chief Amatrudo, Mr. Russo and Mr. Rawlins discussed the Wilton CERT program needs and how they may be addressed. Currently CERT has approximately 80 active members, and they are called to assist with blocked roads, sheltering, mutual aid, missing persons and other similar activities, and they would also assist in school-related emergencies and perimeter control. Their equipment currently includes a 15' box truck, a trailer for response and a trailer for mass care, a light tower and variable message signs ("VMS"); the light tower and VMS must be stored inside in a fully enclosed, climate controlled space. It is possible that a Gator style ATV may be acquired in the future for use with the Norwalk River Valley Trail and police functions.

If bay space is available at Station 2 then CERT could use it. Storage at Station 2 would be OK but not ideal. They would prefer the CERT truck to be located at Station 1 because of the location of membership, call volumes, etc., but there is insufficient floor space at Station 1 so something would need to be relocated from Station 1, which creates a new problem.

With respect to the Emergency Management Department, the critical need is storage of MREs and water at Station 2. No other needs are anticipated.

MINUTES

Mr. Hitter made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarty. Motion carried 5-0.

REVIEW OF SOR

Mr. McCarty requested that each member of the Committee review the Statement of Requirements that had been distributed and send any comments or suggestions to the

Chief with copies to the other Committee members. He requested that the Chief consolidate the comments for review at the next meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McCarty reported that he had spoken with First Selectman Vanderslice with respect to reporting by the Committee to the Board of Selectmen. Reporting will occur quarterly, with the first such meeting with the Board of Selectmen to occur at a meeting in June to be determined.

It was reported that the sandwich sign had been placed at Station 2 the morning of the meeting to alert neighbors and other interested parties of the Committee meeting. The Fire Department will continue to provide this notice prior to future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several members of the public were present and commented. They are sensitive to expansion plans, in light of the proximity of the building to their properties, and the Committee encouraged them to provide input as to architecture and other impacts they perceive.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Committee agreed on the following as future meeting dates:

May 31, 2016
June 16, 2016
June 28, 2016

All meetings will commence at 7:30, with the location to be determined. Future dates will be determined as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:59 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded and passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Waters, Acting Recording Secretary