

ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 10, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Francis J. Pandich, Jr., Chairman
George M. Bush, Secretary
Donald Battaglini
Ronald Materese
Carlton Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Major, Watson Engineering
Joe Mattola, H2M Architects and Engineers
Alice Fiacco, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Chairman Pandich

1. Members discussed with Joe Mattola of H2M Engineering plans for a new station on the northside of the district. Current station has structural issues and with development in the area is too small for our needs. We are also looking at possibility of taking over fire protection for two fire protection districts in the Town of Union: Westover and East Maine. The town currently has a contract with other fire departments to provide fire protection for these. Feel that by taking over these areas we could provide a benefit to the taxpayer: cheaper coverage, better response.

Currently have concerns about building a new station with 2% tax cap requirements. Have just bonded for new vehicles. How can we pay for the new station?

Joe Mattola of H2M Architects offered some information on their company. They have offices in Albany, Long Island, New York City, etc. They have a specific emergency services division that assists fire departments in making determinations about new stations. Six members of the group are firefighters and have a passion for fire and emergency services projects. He has a particular consultant in mind who can analyze our response times, growth, location of volunteers and other factors to provide us with information on good locations. They advise the best way to do this is to provide a certain number of possible locations to them and they will make recommendations on which location they feel will be the best for us.

They will do:

- Response study
- Site assessment - we need provide information on possible sites
- Planning and programming - based on input from the us about facilities requirements

We have concerns about our stations - if station #1 were to be flooded or damaged it would be good to have back up facilities for our operations at another location. We might be able to make this available to this Town of Union also, as their offices are in the flood zone.

Result of study will be a complete plan with justifications that will allow us to present the project to the taxpayers along with all reasons why it is necessary. Will include reasons, plans for facility and estimated costs. Would include information on why it is not feasible just to refurb the current station #3.

Stage 1 of the study will cost \$15-\$25,000 and will involve study and information gathering. Would be done primarily by H2K and their consultant.

Stage #2- \$30-\$40,000 and will includes design for the facility and financial planning for budget. This would involve Watson Engineering working with the H2M and consultant to come up with building plans.

Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to go forward with stage #1 of the study and begin with their consultant speaking with us. All aye; motion carried.

2. Member Anderson has spoken with Energy Cooperative of America and we can save money by purchasing gas from them. Motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Bush to switch gas to them. All aye; motion carried. We will also look at electric pricing.
3. Chief advised himself and Lieut. Winchell will be taking the Fire Officer 2 class at the NYS Fire Academy.
4. Discussed tablets for board members.

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5. Discussion of Westover fire protection district and our proposal. Johnson City Fire is currently getting approximately \$230,000 and the tax rate is \$64.73. The former Goudey station power plant is supposed to be razed and this parcel has an assessed evaluation which amounts to nearly one-third of the total assessed evaluation of the entire Westover FPD. When this is torn down, the assessed evaluation will decrease substantially and the tax rate will increase . Discussion of the amount for our proposal. Regardless of how much less we charge, the tax rate will still increase when Goudey station is torn down.

6. Discussion of East Maine Fire Protection District.

Motion by Member Battaglini, second by Member Bush to adjourn at 4:02 pm. All aye; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

George M. Bush
Secretary

GMB/af