

Board of Commissioners
Fire Expansion Public Hearing
Minutes
November 13, 2019

The Commission Meeting convened at 7:20 P.M. in the meeting room at the North Conway Water Precinct 104 Sawmill Lane North Conway, NH. The following were present: Commissioner John Santuccio, Commissioner Robert Porter, Commissioner Suzanne Nelson, Superintendent Jason Gagnon, Chief Patrick Preece (NCFD), Asst. Chief Chad McCarthy (NCFD), Deputy Chief Tim Anderson (NCFD), Allan Clarke (REI), Crystal Laliberte (REI), Shane Laliberte (REI), Chris Salomon (Samyn D'Elia) and Recording Secretary Hannah Andersen (NCWP).

Call the Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Santuccio at 7:20 P.M.

Public Hearing(s)

Commissioner Nelson thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting to engage in the process. She articulated that the Fire Department Expansion has been in the works for a long time and the committee has worked hard to bring together a plan that prioritizes the health, safety, and response time of the fire department, to best serve the North Conway community. The committee wanted to create an aesthetically pleasing addition to the center of town that incorporates the needs of the surrounding community and the fire department. The committee hired REI Service Corporation to design an aesthetically pleasing, energy efficient building on the same site as the current Fire Station, that is meant to last 50-75 years.

Superintendent Gagnon expanded on the Precinct's choice to hire REI to take the lead on the project because NCWP is a small organization with limited staff. Allan Clarke of REI, who is the Fire Chief of Sugar Hill, has been assigned to the project. Allan outlined the need for the project and what REI's role has been in terms of combining what the Fire Department is going to need in the coming years and has helped to develop a program for architects to incorporate in the design for the project. Allan highlighted the changes that have happened to fire fighting over the course of the last few decades and the best practices that have been developed to make fire-

fighting safer and more effective. Allan highlighted the need for the building's design elements to incorporate the research that has been documented and the best practices that have been developed by the Fire Standards and Training Commission of the New Hampshire Department of Safety.

Chief Preece of the North Conway Fire Department outlined the current state of operations at the Station to present the need that the NCFD has for an upgrade. A main concern of the Fire Expansion Committee is protecting the Fire Fighters and the community they serve. With plastics and synthetics now common in most construction, cancer is on the rise among firefighters. The current station was built in 1960. Since then, fire trucks have changed, the responsibilities of the fire department have multiplied, and the current apparatus is short on space.

One important way of mitigating the risk of fire fighters having long term exposure to the carcinogens that come from fires is by having clean areas and dirty areas for gear. Currently, everything in the department is multi-use. The workbench is used for both a clean and dirty table. Gear is stored on the walls behind the trucks, which means that in addition to the chemicals the gear is exposed to in the fires, the gear is also exposed to exhaust from the trucks upon start up and return. The gear that fire fighters use off-gases for 3 days after a fire and the department doesn't have the capability of washing or drying gear more than one set at a time.

While the space has served the community well, the air quality is terrible, there is not enough space, and no way to designate clean vs. dirty areas after a fire. The current basement has sailor stairs and is difficult to access. The Assistant Chief's office is also used as the meeting room, training room, kitchen, and office. Additionally, the clerical staff and dispatch staff work in the same space, and the environment gets very chaotic. The NCFD has outgrown the space.

All the factors mentioned were considered for Phase 1 of the design which was taken on by Samyn D'Elia architects. Samyn D'Elia spent a lot of time before they were chosen for the project, walking around the village surveying the space from the country club and the train station, and were enthusiastic about creating a design that meets the modern needs for a growing fire station while keeping an aesthetic that is consistent with the rest of the surrounding area. Chris Soloman of Samyn D'Elia talked about the various constraints of the property being the street, sharing a

property line with the country club, and the complications of having the train tracks so close to the property. The exterior of the building will be made with brick and granite. The hose tower has been moved in the design to accommodate a better view from the country club deck and the doors into the apparatus bay will have arches. Samyn D'Elia have designed the dirty side of the building to be separate from the clerical offices with locker spaces for gear, wash stations and showers for the fire fighters. The design includes ample room for future rescue vehicle space as well as a secure entrance and separate spaces for clerical staff and dispatch staff.

Minutes

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Copied from Fire Chief's Report)

Old Business

New Business

Superintendent's Report

(Copied from Superintendent's Report with added Discussions)

Public Comment

There were inquires about the flat roof and the burden that the amount of snow the Valley gets will have on the structure. Allan Clarke and Chris Salomon assured that the building will be built, per code ordinance to accommodate the heavy snow loads seen in the valley.

Tom Eastman inquired as to whether the Train Station or the Country Club had input in the project. Chief Preece confirmed that both were invited to the meeting.

There were inquiries as to why the location was chosen. Chief Preece stated the reasons being that the current location is central to the service area, keeping the response time to fires low, and the department already owns the land.

A Board Member from the Country Club inquired about the peak of the building and the location of the building on the property. The building will reach 26ft and the building will be further away from the property line of the Country Club.

Bill Hounsell asked if the parking lot is going to be heated. Allan Clarke stated that the feature has been talked about but will depend on funding.

Signature Documents

Signing of Checks

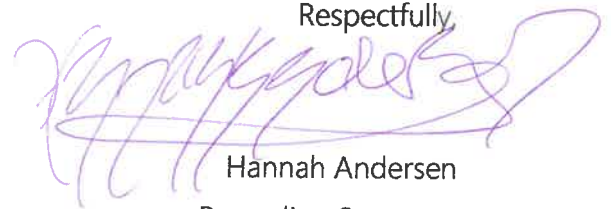
Non-Public Session

Adjourn

Having nothing further to come before this public meeting, Motion by Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Porter to adjourn this public meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Andersen', is written over the word 'Respectfully,'.

Hannah Andersen
Recording Secretary