

MINUTES OF THE FIRE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE
SOMERSWORTH FIRE STATION
March 22, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
Councilor David Witham
Paul Robidas, Citizen Representative

Committee Member Absent/Excused: Councilor Ken Vincent

Staff Members present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Finance Director Scott Smith
Fire Chief George Kramlinger

Others Present: Kelly Davis, Port One Architects
Evan Mullen, Port One Architects
Senan Murdock, Harvey Construction

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pepin at 4:38 p.m. on-site at the Somersworth Fire Station.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2023

Councilor Witham made a motion to accept the January 3, 2023 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robidas and passed 3-0.

DISCUSS CONTAMINATED SOIL

City Manager Belmore informed the Committee that City Staff had a zoom meeting with Amy Renzi, the State Sites Section Supervisor for the NH Department of Environmental Services. She informed us that NH DES was concerned that we moved the contaminated soils off the Fire Station property and stockpiled it in the Maple Street pit without prior approval. Manager Belmore said until we receive approval, we can not move anymore contaminated soil off site. If there is asphalt, NH DES said one option would be to clean the dirt off the asphalt, and then that could be disposed of, but it is understood that depending on the amount of asphalt that could be labor intensive.

Manager Belmore informed the Committee that the Fire Station and the Pit now will require a Ground Water Management Permit, and Ms. Renzi has scheduled an appointment with staff to conduct a site walk next week on both sites.

We have received quotes to dispose of the contaminated soil, but initial cost estimates are in excess of \$1,000,000 to dispose of it. Another possible option could be to spread it out on-site where it is currently stockpiled, laydown some textile covering, add some additional clean fill and pave over it. There is also the possibility we may need to install monitoring wells at one or both sites.

After Ms. Renzi conducts the site visit, NH DES will issue a letter for each site with greater detail on what the City will be required to do, and options for disposal of the soil.

Councilor Witham stated he felt it was good that NH DES was involved, but is not convinced that the AFFF foam was to blame and that it could have been from another source.

Miscellaneous Items – CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Chief Kramlinger provided the Committee with some updates on the construction of the Fire Station. Manager Belmore stated that he and the Chief reviewed our Tree Ordinance and he had given approval to remove a couple trees out in front of the station because they are concerned about sight obstruction and turning radius when the Fire Engines leave and return to the Station. The Committee was agreeable to removing the trees. Chief Kramlinger also pointed out where they would be moving the “Somersworth Fire Station” sign. Councilor Pepin asked if they would be reusing the granite posts. Chief Kramlinger responded in the affirmative, that they were reusing the entire sign, it is still in good shape and matches up well with the architecture of the building.

Manager Belmore inquired about where the flag pole was going to be installed. Mr. Mullen pointed out the area, and said it would be surrounded by pavers. Mr. Mullen stated that they have created an updated rendering of the Fire Station and will email a copy out to the Committee and Staff.

Mr. Davis informed the Committee that they have a final design of the dedication plaque and it will be ordered soon. He also said they have an antique call box that will be put out front with a phone in it that will be connected to the PD emergency dispatch.

Mr. Murdock went over the construction budget. He informed the Committee that due to the delay in construction because of the contaminated soil, City costs are going to be over by approximately \$40,000, but the initial estimate was \$95,000 so we have made up some of the lost time. They also estimated that the project will be over by approximately \$40,000 for certain allowances, mainly due to temporary heat again caused by the delay in construction. Overall, these overages should be within project contingencies which is positive.

Mr. Murdock informed the Committee that they estimate that construction should be substantially completed by the first or second week of July.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous items discussed after the contaminated soil discussion.

Tour

Committee members were given a tour of the building and the construction progress made to date.

ADJOURN

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robidas and passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Station Building Committee
March 22, 2023

Scott A. Smith, Deputy City Manager