

MINUTES of the Fire Station Building Committee
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
January 6, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members present:
Committee Members present electronically
via Zoom:

Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair

Councilor David Witham, Vice Chair
Councilor Kenneth Vincent
Paul Robidas, Citizen Representative

Administration/Staff present:

Bob Belmore, City Manager
Scott Smith, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director
Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk

Staff Members present electronically
via Zoom:

George Kramlinger, Fire Chief

Public present:

Jenne Holmes

As Chair of the Somersworth Fire Station Building Committee, I, Councilor Marty Pepin find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public was asked to submit comments via email to jslaven@somersworth.com or bbelmore@somersworth.com by Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. The public can access the meeting and listen live by telephoning any of the following numbers and then adding webinar I.D. # 825 3015 3176

1 (312) 626-6799 or, 1(646) 558-8656 or, 1 (301) 715-8592 or, 1 (346) 248-7799 or, 1 (669) 900-9128 or, 1 (253) 215-8782

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2020

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Citizen Representative Paul Robidas and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

DISCUSS NOTIFICATION OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER – STATE'S DECOMMISSIONING OF FACILITY

City Manager Bob Belmore stated that paperwork had been sent for the Committee's review which included the following:

- New Fire Station Costs as of 12/31/2020 equaling \$126,844.95.
- Port One Architects invoice.
- Warranty Deed for the property.

Chairman Pepin stated that the reason for this discussion is because of a question that was brought up inquiring the feasibility of the Army National Guard Readiness Center becoming a site for the new Fire Station. Chairman Pepin expressed his concerns regarding the timeline of the availability of the property to start the project, if there is any hazardous material on the site, and the amount spent already on the current site along with the architect already on board with the current project.

Councilor Witham mentioned that there were some thoughts that utilizing the National Guard property could improve response times and save money by moving the project site. Councilor Witham is unsure how it would save money considering the amount already spent, and pointed out some of those costs. He is also concerned with the timeline of the project not only because of the setback of when the construction could begin but the cost of materials increasing when that happens. He also mentioned that the response time with different locations was studied some time ago and was not sure if Blackwater Road was looked into.

Chairman Pepin stated he was on the Committee that looked into several locations but a formal study on response times was not done.

Councilor Vincent inquired about looking into housing the Fire Department at the Army National Guard Readiness Center location to be able to do a one phase project. But feels at this stage of the project we are too far into it to change course.

Citizen Representative Paul Robidas mentioned when he first received the information for the consideration of moving the project site he was excited but also feels they are too far along in the project and that funds have already been spent on the current project.

City Manager Belmore mentioned that they are having a Zoom Meeting with the Architect, and Harvey Construction to discuss the possibility of housing the Department there and doing a one phase project and if there is any timeline that would have to be met if the City would like to take that route. The uncertainty of when they will be able to be out of the facility could be problematic, but they will look into the situation.

Councilor Witham stated that if they had known about this opportunity a year or so ago they could have investigated this possibility but feels they are too close to the construction phase of this project to go back to the beginning. He also mentioned that if the direction is changed the Council would have to rescind a vote and vote again and that would have an impact on the timeline as well.

Chairman Pepin mentioned that when he spoke with Councilor Dumont he mentioned that a one story building would be more cost effective than a two story building. After the conversation Chairman Pepin thought about having to start the process over again and is concerned about how much it will cost to start over again.

Citizen Representative Robidas stated he has considered a one-story project compared to a two story on a project of his own and a builder had mentioned to him that it may not be more cost effective because of the expense of more foundation, rafters, and other supplies needed. He also mentioned that the only option to consider is the housing of the department to be able to do a single phase project, but it would have to depend on the timeline of the availability of the center.

Councilor Witham agrees with the points made concerning the availability of the National Guard Readiness Center and feels that if the Center is not available for when we need it to be we should stick with the current project as planned.

Councilor Witham made a motion to continue with the two phase construction plan and allow the City Staff and construction company use the Army National Guard Readiness Center as it is available and as they see fit while the current project plan is executed. The motion was seconded by Citizen Representative Robidas and passed by roll call vote 4-0.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Manager Belmore mentioned that there was a Zoom call with 2-Way Communications concerning them working with the architect to adjust a few minor changes.

Fire Chief George Kramlinger mentioned the following discussion points that were discussed during the Zoom call with 2-Way Communications:

- Schedule for the speaker location so alarms can be heard throughout the station.
- Foot print for radio system.
- Conduit placement for wire pulling.
- Inter-phasing with the electrical contractor.
- Consideration of the footprint for the radio's, and other communication components.
- The need of climate control for systems.
- What the logistics wing and mechanical closet will consist of.

It was determined that climate control is not necessary, that the alarm sounding system is a gradual volume increase and this phase of the project is coming along nicely.

Councilor Witham inquired about 2-Way Communications being a sub-contractor and Harvey Construction being ok with that. Chief Kramlinger confirmed that they are working together and communicating well.

Chairman Pepin stated that during the first phase demolition there is not as much work as there will be during the construction phase regarding the communication systems. Chief Kramlinger also mentioned that there will not be as much equipment structure returning because of technical advances.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Witham. The motion was seconded by Citizen Representative Paul Robidas and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey
Deputy City Clerk