

MINUTES of the Fire Station Building Committee
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
Wednesday, March 9, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members present electronically
via Zoom:

Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
Councilor David Witham, Vice Chairman
Councilor Kenneth Vincent
Citizen Representative Paul Robidas

Staff Members present electronically
via Zoom:

Bob Belmore, City Manager
Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk
George Kramlinger, Fire Chief

Public present:
via Zoom:

Carl Dubois, Harvey Construction
Kelly Davis, Port One Architects
Tim Lotterhand, Harvey Construction

Chairman Martin Pepin called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

As Chairman of the Somersworth Fire Station Building Committee, I, Councilor Martin 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 Wednesday, March 3, 2021 by 12:00 p.m.

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

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2021

The approval of past minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

REVIEW VALUE ENGINEERING OPTIONS

Councilor Pepin began the meeting with a reminder that this Committee is tasked to get the structure (new fire station) approved and do so within budget. Delaying this will inevitably drive up costs. This needs to get done now without having to be sent back to Council. Councilor Vincent reiterated comments from last meeting that he is always thinking about costs and wants to see the project completed in a cost-effective manner while not compromising the integrity of the building.

Councilor Witham discussed the contingencies for the project and the likelihood of using all or some of them. He stated he is confident in the work of the design and build team and recommends discussing which portion of the

contingencies the Committee would be willing to utilize. Witham cited grant opportunities as well as potential Covid relief funds as a reason he would be okay utilizing contingency funds to help bridge the gap.

Councilor Witham made a motion to utilize \$225,000 of contingency to allow for some of the Value Engineering items to be added back in. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Citizen Representative Robidas said he would like to see the items for the interior of the building put back in since, after 8 years, his station is in need of repairs and does not want to see the same happen with the new fire station. If the plan is to have this be a 100-year building, he would prefer not to see cuts to the inside of the building.

Councilor Witham further discussed potential savings of using the training tower as a bid alternate, changing the front bay doors to glass, as well as using a less expensive brick. Kelly Davis stated the revised value engineering plan includes removing the training tower, replacing some of the interior walls with drywall (mainly in areas not heavily trafficked such as the Chief's office and administrative areas), replacing baseboard heat with forced air, removing the Co2 vent, and changing the water struck brick to an alternative. Mr. Davis stated he advises the City to not utilize their owner's contingency at this time.

Councilor Witham made a motion to accept the eight (8) items being proposed on the value engineering list as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin.

Councilor Vincent said that with any budget there are going to be soft costs which are seen as a wish list. People know when making a budget that things are going to be cut. Mr. Robidas said he is okay with the doors being changed and is pleased that the radiant bay floor heat is still being included. He reiterated his interest in keeping CMU block throughout the interior, including the living quarters as this and other areas are prone to damage. Councilor Witham stated that after conversations with Mayor Hilliard, it is possible the City may receive Covid relief funds which have the potential to be used for the new fire station. He mentioned that with the 2-phase nature of the building process, we may know more about potential incoming funds and asked if the addition of CMU block to the areas being proposed to have drywall is a difficult adaptation. Mr. Davis stated it depends since electrical would need to be run, but we will know more once we get through the design development phase. Carl Dubois echoed the comment that we will know more once we get through the design development phase, but it would be smart to take advantage of the momentum so subcontractors can be contacted find out more about specific costs. Mr. Dubois said this is also the point in the process we will know more about any items required to be bid out as alternates.

Councilor Witham applauded Port One and Harvey Construction for their work on the refined list. Witham also requested a friendly amendment to his motion to include the training tower as a bid alternate.

Councilor Vincent inquired about the soft cost and said his understanding is they are what fills the building with furniture. Mr. Dubois said that is some of it, but not all.

Motion amending the motion to accept the eight (8) items on the value engineering list as submitted and include the training tower as a bid alternate by Witham, second by Pepin passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Robidas inquired about the timeline to review soft costs in order to potentially put some items back in. Councilor Pepin stated that his experience on building Committees has shown that once the project is out of the ground, it is easier to find out what we will need or not in contingencies.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Citizen Representative Robidas. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk