

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

FIRE STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommendation to the Somersworth City Council

Presented by Tim Wilder and the Members of the Committee

August 15, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.

Councilors Pepin, Dumont, Messier, Witham, Cameron and Paradis were present.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:03 pm.

Tim Wilder introduced himself and the other members of the committee in attendance, Chief Keith Hoyle, Lieutenant Matt Moore, Former Chief Don Messier, John Kennedy, and City Manager Bob Belmore. He gave a brief overview of the responsibilities that the committee was charged with; what are the problems with the current station and what is the best course of action to remedy the problem.

Wilder reviewed a hand out (on file). The current fire department, as it relates to the department's current needs, is insufficiently sized in all three aspects of a fire station; administrative spaces, apparatus bays and firefighter living quarters.

The committee conducted a field investigation and although the building appears to be in fair condition, well maintained, and in a good, central location, the investigation revealed various deficiencies with life safety, code compliance, and ADA accessibility. There are also issues with the current mechanical, electrical and plumbing conditions, and a list of other deficiencies.

Wilder shared a presentation of photos showing areas of concern (on file).

Councilor Witham said that Chief Messier proposed an addition to the station when he was still Chief. He said more training area and restrooms were needed at that time. Councilor Witham said he served as a call firefighter and there were a lot of shortcomings at that time. He said it seems like the committee is leaning toward building new. His questions were where and how much?

Tim Wilder said the committee recommends a new facility on the same site, as it is most centrally located for response times. There is an estimate in the report (\$5,486,734). Chief Hoyle said he looked at Dover's department which cost approximately \$3mil and Portsmouth which cost approximately \$4mil.

Councilor Pepin said that when Chief Messier was looking into an addition, the architect at the time said they would not recommend attaching anything to the existing building. Also, back in the day, they washed their clothes at home, stored their uniforms in their rooms. They were being exposed to contaminants. And now, as the public and children tour the fire department, they are being exposed as well, because it is in the carpet.

Councilor Paradis said the building is awkwardly placed on the lot and it will be difficult to add to, as is. How much additional square footage is needed?

Chief Hoyle said it is a one acre lot, and a city owned right-of-way. Current practice is for drive thru bays. According to the USAF study guide, 15950sqft is recommended, and the current building has 10,200sqft.

Councilor Dumont said we get one shot at this. Let's get the professionals involved. It is a perfect location, and a big undertaking.

Councilor Pepin said the students of the Career Technical Center built the Fire Department in 1976. A lot of the stuff put into the fire department was experimental; the solar wall, the solar panels. The building is angled to maximize the sun.

The Workshop ended at 6:45pm, and the Mayor stated that the Committee is not disbanded.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk