

## FIRE/RESCUE SITE COMMITTEE

January 18, 2021

Present: Jerry Ouimet, Jacob Leopold, Doug Merrill, Chris Boyd, Catherine Collette, Mike Ashooh, Lee Krohn; also John Goodrich, Devin Major,

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.

Discussion continued regarding the latest version of the proposed shared infrastructure agreement; specifically, upon the updated budget table. With increases built in to contingency costs, Healthy Living now commits to covering any further cost increases beyond those. The new proposed total for construction and contingencies is \$940,000. With the Town's 50% share of that being \$470,000, the upcoming bond vote for land purchase and construction of shared infrastructure would be \$1,120,000. Given all circumstances involved, there was committee consensus that this was acceptable and defensible as a recommendation to the Selectboard as we approach the time when the Town Meeting warning must be finalized.

With that resolved, discussion then continued regarding a communications plan to inform the voters. A multi-pronged strategy will need to begin ASAP to help the voters understand the history of site analyses, why this is believed the best location for a new station, why the approach to shared infrastructure costs is mutually advantageous, that this project is not just a reaction to the new Library project as some may believe, the condition (and location) of Rescue's facility and how that is decades beyond its intended lifespan, and the importance of securing the property now, even though prospective construction would be years away. We've been invited to speak at Rotary on 2/17; other approaches will include the Shelburne News, FPF, upcoming Selectboard meetings, use of the newly created Fire/Rescue recruitment video, SBPA, and personal conversations that may occur. Emphasizing that this would be a shared Fire and Rescue facility (not just Fire) was felt important, as were committee member voices in communication to the public. It was also noted that this more central location may help improve the Town's ISO insurance rating. It was also noted that if the land purchase is approved, future operating budgets will need to include amounts for eventual architectural design, even as actual construction would be years out; and to be aware that while some existing Town debt will be paid off, there will be other significant capital projects on a similar time horizon as this project (not least of which will be wastewater system upgrades).

With no other business, and understanding that budget and Town Meeting warning discussions will continue with the Selectboard on January 19 and 26, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.