

MINUTES OF THE FIRE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE
SOMERSWORTH FIRE STATION
June 8, 2023 @ 8:30 a.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
City Clerk Kristen LaPanne

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pepin at 8:30 a.m. on-site at the Somersworth Fire Station.

PAST MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2023

Mr. Robidas made a motion to accept the March 22, 2023 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 3-0.

NHDES PROJECT/SITE REQUIREMENTS

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a copy of the revised Soils and Materials Management Plan prepared by Aries Engineering. He stated that NHDES reviewed the plan and provided feedback which is reflected in the document. Manager Belmore confirmed that Harvey Construction would be responsible for the excavation and removal of any more contaminated site soil that will be transported to the pile at the City boneyard, and the location of the monitoring wells will be determined and approved by NHDES.

Manager Belmore stated that he attempted to get three proposals regarding the Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) but only two engineering consultants submitted proposals, Geosyntec and Aries Engineering. Geosyntec's proposed cost estimates came in much higher than Aries Engineering, and although the City has not directly contracted with Aries Engineering, Port One Architects and Harvey Construction have contracted with Aries Engineering for testing on the Fire Station building site.

Councilor Pepin questioned if pavement excavation is still needed. Mr. Evan Mullen, of Port One Architects, stated that there is still work that needs to be completed before the contaminated soil can be moved. Mr. Mullen added that the biggest project will be dealing with the contaminated soil under the asphalt and estimates that the excavation of the site soil will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Mr. Robidas stated that the projected completion date for the Fire Station building was scheduled for June/July, he questioned if the additional contaminated soil excavation projected would delay that timeframe.

Senan Murdock, of Harvey Construction, stated that the Fire Station building is expected to be completed by the end of June with the remainder of the site work projected to be complete by mid-July.

Councilor Witham stated that the Finance Committee was in favor of contracting with Aries Engineering for the SSI work, he added that he believes that the plan presented by them was solid. Councilor Pepin agreed that the SSI plan provided by Aries Engineering gave him clarity on the project and is confident with the plan submitted.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES AND BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Murdock provided an overview of the Fire Station construction budget. He mentioned that the discovery of the contaminated soil delayed the project by approximately three months, which resulted in Harvey Construction submitting a pending change order in the amount of \$95,030.08 to cover additional time needed to complete the project. Mr. Murdock stated that the pending change order is no longer needed because they were able to make up that lost time. Other expenses pertaining to temporary heat, snow removal went over budget because of the delay, but there was some savings because they didn't need to use funds on moisture mitigation.

Mr. Murdock reported that there is over \$99,000 remaining in the construction contingency budget and currently estimates there to be approximately \$40,000 unspent upon completion of the project.

Mr. Robidas questioned if the unspent project funds could be used for remediation of the contaminated soil on the Fire Station property. City Manager Belmore confirmed yes, that the removal and disposal of the soil is part of the project.

Councilor Witham expressed appreciation of Harvey Construction and Port One Architects for closely monitoring the budget.

SOFT COST UPDATE

Fire Chief Kramlinger provided the Committee with a memorandum which details various purchases from multiple local vendors to provide the Fire Station with needed fixtures, furniture, and equipment as part of the completion of the project. Chief Kramlinger stated that he presented a proposal to the City Manager requesting to competitively shop for the needed items rather than requesting bids of the variety of items. Chief Kramlinger added that he has been working with local vendors and has lessened the estimated cost by about \$3,000 since he presented his proposal.

Councilor Witham stated that the Finance Committee approved waiving the bidding process for the purchase of the Fire Station furniture and to proceed with the recommendations provided by Chief Kramlinger's memorandum. Councilor Witham mentioned that there was a brief discussion during the Finance Committee about the difficulty of finding one vendor that would be able to bid on the variety of furniture and equipment needed.

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum prepared by the Fire Chief regarding small kitchen and T.V. equipment, and he recommends that the Fire Station Building Committee also consider waiving the bidding process of those items. There was further discussion on why the bidding process doesn't seem to make sense regarding the items needed including the variety of items and shipping timelines.

Mr. Robidas commented that he feels the pricing of items determined by Chief Kramlinger are reasonable. Chief Kramlinger agreed and added that quality, pricing, and functionality were important to him while

conducting his research of the items. Chief Kramlinger commended the City Staff, construction and design teams for their efforts on the project and making conscious decisions of space and reducing costs where feasible.

Councilor Witham made a motion to recommend waiving the bidding process for the purchase of Fire Station kitchen and T.V. equipment and to proceed with the recommendations submitted by City staff to purchase from local vendors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robidas and passed 3-0.

Mr. Robidas commented that the new fire station building is beautiful and stated that all involved with this project should be proud. Councilor Pepin commented that the Fire Station will be adequate for a long time and agrees that all citizens should be proud of the new Fire Station. He expressed appreciation for all involved in the development of the Station.

RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSION

City Manager Belmore recalled a previous discussion about the ribbon cutting ceremony being scheduled in July and suggested holding a more structured open house in September or October. Mr. Robidas suggested aligning the open house with Fire Prevention Week in October.

Councilor Pepin stated that he has had lots of people inquiring about the Fire Station and are interested in a tour of the new building.

Manager Belmore questioned if the July ribbon cutting is too soon with the estimated construction completion date in mid-July. He suggested City Officials and the construction staff could do the ribbon cutting ceremony in August with an informal open house for those in attendance. There was discussion regarding the list of people that should be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony such as former Fire Chiefs.

Chief Kramlinger stated that he would like to have a ceremony for the new fire truck coming into service for the City by the end of June. He spoke to the customization features implemented throughout the truck as well as it being the first Pierce apparatus in the area. The consensus was to include the truck ceremony with the ribbon cutting event.

Finance Director Smith shared an overview of the overall Fire Station project budget, he mentioned in addition to the Construction Manager's contingency discussed earlier, there is \$75,000 in the Architect's contingency that will remain largely unspent, and the City had an additional \$260,000 in contingency included with the soft costs, and there is currently approximately \$80,000 left to date.

Mr. Robidas questioned if, within the project site, any corners were cut with signage, landscaping or other things that could be reconsidered with the expectation of unspent funds. There was further discussion of the site's signage, flag pole light, call box and the City Seal. The Fire Chief stated there were a few furniture items such as his desk that might need to wait, however the Committee members as well as the City Manager asked the Chief to move forward and purchase an appropriate desk.

ADJOURN

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robidas and passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Station Building Committee
June 8, 2023

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk