

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
New Fire Station Design by Port One Architects

June 15, 2020 at 6:00pm

As Deputy Chair of the Somersworth City Council, I, David A. Witham, Deputy Mayor 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 Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously watch by way of our local public access Comcast channel 22 or via live streaming available at our City website Somersworth.com.

Deputy Mayor Witham opened the workshop at 6:00pm by welcoming Kelly Davis of Port One Architects. Mr. Davis gave the presentation of the New Fire Station Design.

Kelly Davis noted the most significant change is the left side of the station will now be a one story. The right side will now be a two story administration wing, which will put them in close proximity to the public. The first phase will be a partial demolition and construction of the left side the second phase is to demolish the rest and build the two story right side of the fire station. The engineering narrative is the same as far as the mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineering is the same. In regards to the pandemic we are unsure if it will affect the price of construction. The escalation of cost of building materials due to the pandemic is unknown.

City Manager Belmore noted that we would like to move forward that the training room will also double as an emergency operations center, which would qualify for a grant. He also spoke about the double story tower for training.

Kelly Davis spoke about the training tower and how it would fit nicely into Somersworth architecture. What he realized when we went back into the construction costs what they said was another \$160, 000 – \$200,000 dollars to add the tower. We can look at ways to save money to be able to add the two story tower. He is confident that we can do it. It will make it unique in Somersworth.

Councilor Pepin stated that his question is about construction costs and the construction team. When will you get that going? Kelly Davis answered that he is not sure about bond approval and when that will happen, that will decide when the construction team will be created.

Deputy Mayor Witham noted that first reading tonight for the bond Resolution will happen tonight and the second reading on July 13th, pending approval that would start the process.

Councilor Gerding stated that maybe a question for City Manager or City Staff, but where do trainings take place currently. City Manager Belmore noted that he would invite Fire Chief up to speak if Council would like. As he knows he does training off site in Concord, NH or some training is on site.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated that we will recognize the Fire Chief to speak.

Chief Kramlinger spoke to the Council and noted that training is done on the exterior walls of the Fire Station, but issues arise as we have no window as a focal point. Some on apparatus floor, other areas within the City and Concord for some additional training.

Councilor Gerding asked if there would there be cost savings to add the training tower.

Deputy Mayor Witham noted that if you are able to do training on site the crews are able to respond to calls and emergencies in a timely manner. Fire Chief Kramlinger responded, yes.

Deputy Mayor Witham stated to Kelly Davis that he likes the design change that is proposed. As you demolish all the administration area, where do the Firefighters live in the meantime, as he only sees fitness rooms and other non-living rooms available.

Kelly Davis stated that we would repurpose rooms that would become temporary admin and living quarters until the construction is complete.

Chief Kramlinger noted that the fitness area will be used as day room and kitchen. The gear room will be the overnight room and his office will be a broom closet.

Councilor Paradis asked if there was a picture of where that tower would be. Kelly Davis showed a picture on the screen.

Deputy Mayor Witham took the opportunity to state that he liked the design and the look of adding the training tower. He also asked Kelly Davis if the COVID 19 pandemic could also decrease the price of the supplies.

Kelly Davis stated that he reached out and couldn't get a definite answer for supplies or construction management as of yet.

Deputy Mayor Witham asked Councilor Pepin if the Public Safety Committee endorsed this. Councilor Pepin stated yes we did and the additional training tower was also spoke about. We were all in favor of adding the training tower at the Committee meeting it would be a big asset.

Deputy Mayor Witham noted that the new entrance is not dissimilar than what we currently have.

Workshop adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk