

Harwinton Ambulance Building Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2010
Harwinton Town Hall

Members Present: Todd Mattiello, Jason Emery, Bill Gordon, John Fredsall, Brian Dunbar, Peter Thierry

1. Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM.
2. Meeting minutes from previous meeting reviewed and approved.
3. Contract terms for Burlington Road land purchase still being worked up.
4. Open discussion regarding utilization of grant funds to purchase Burlington Road property and adding onto existing firehouse rather than building an independent structure. After a discussion the following concerns were brought up in discussion.
 - A structural engineer would have to determine the viability of adding on to the existing steel structure. The support structure and roofing system would most likely have to be redesigned to accommodate the addition as it would have to be added on to the eastern portion of the structure. We would also likely have to use a similar type of metal construction rather than the wood frame building we are looking at now.
 - The current septic system of the firehouse could not sustain the new addition. In the opinion of the septic engineer this would require a completely new system which may be difficult on the property as it is. Also, the firehouse could potentially lose the ability to host its chicken barbecue and pancake breakfast if it has to abide by the current TAHD septic regulations and the system is too small to handle it. As it is the proposed Ambulance Building cannot host such events for at least one year until the determination can be made as to our overall water usage on the property.
 - The question of property ownership is a concern as well. In all likelihood the Fire Department would have to turn over their building and land to the town in order to construct the addition. The grants are provided by the State to the municipality and not to a private non-profits such as the ambulance or fire department.
 - If the Fire Department building was turned over to the town for the addition it would then be considered a town building. As it would be a municipal building and since it has a second floor area with a day/meeting room and office access it would most likely have to be retrofitted with an elevator to meet ADA regulations to access the second floor rooms.

- The heating, septic, electrical and other key systems of the Fire Department could not sustain the addition and would all have to be upgraded or replaced.

The Committee agreed this would not be a logical course of action and it needs to be addressed as part of our communications.

5. Committee discussed the likely expense of heat and electricity for the new building. After a discussion including the costs of operating the current center firehouse as a reference it was determined that the smaller size of the structure and the more emergency efficient design that it would cost less than \$11,000 a year. This was based on the fact that it costs approximately \$11,000 for heating and electricity for the center firehouse.
6. Questions from Selectman Criss not yet received for Committee to review relative to the construction and operation of the proposed structure.
7. DECD requirements for contractors and selection of contractors discussed.
8. Discussed proposal from Architect on creation of additional drawings and specification list. This would be paid for through the Ambulance Association and not through the grant funds.
9. Committee seeking more current estimates for building construction and will look to have estimate broken down into major components.
10. No public comments shared.
11. Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM.

Submitted by Todd Mattiello, Secretary
November 30, 2010