

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
October 15, 2019

SITE VISIT MINUTES

Present: James Kelly, Bob Hanson, Leandra MacDonald, Valerie Jenkins, Carl Mabbs-Zeno, Bill Reinhardt, Sarah Steinberg Heller, and James Kelly

Also Present: Peter Throop Office of Community Development and Fire Chief Ed Walker

Chair Hanson indicated that all members who were able to attend had arrived. He asked Chief Walker to make his presentation.

Chief Walker oriented the group to the site pointing out the community center, the Department of Public Works (DPW) garage, and the former Armory building that is currently being used for cold storage. He provided a brief history of the site, including how the present uses have evolved and how a year ago the decision was made to consider a municipal campus with the DPW garage, the fire station, and the community center all in one campus location. He briefly pointed to the area where the fire station could be located and noted how the abutting parcel would be acquired by the town through an eminent domain process. He described the parcel as including an area of wetlands that would not be disturbed. He indicated that the Town was in discussion with the current owner, The Harris Center for Conservation, about potential mitigation.

The Chief described the synergies and economies of scale that would be achieved by having the DPW garage and Fire Department in close proximity. He described the possibility of the Fire and Public Works departments sharing a common cold storage building, which may or may not include the use of the existing cold storage building.

The Chief indicated that the CIP request for this year would be \$250,000 to be for the design process. Further, he said the process moving forward would be to put together a steering committee to look at the needs analysis. The goal is to wrap that initial work up by September and be back in front of the CIP committee next year for a request to fund construction. He stressed the importance of community involvement in the process with the Fire Department, because of the visibility of this public service.

The Chief reiterated that the Fire Department is at a point where it is significantly constrained by its existing building. He also reiterated that this is a very desirable location from a response time perspective. He told members that the other locations had been considered, including the SDE parcel and Vose Farm Road, but the locations had disadvantages. One hinderance noted was that the firefighters would have to go to the station in these locations first to get the apparatuses and that would slow response time.

Mr. Reinhardt asked if any geotech work has been done yet. The Chief responded that some had.

Ms. MacDonald asked if the fire station location would have a separate site egress (driveway). The Chief responded that they envision using the existing Community Center driveway to enter the site, but that emergency responses would leave the station from a separate driveway out to Elm Street.

Ms. MacDonald further asked if the station would be on one floor or two. The Chief replied that this determination had not been made and that there are advantages and disadvantages to both options.

Mr. Mabbs-Zeno asked for clarification about the site layout for the station. The chief stated that it is still to be determined.

The Site Visit adjourned to the Town House at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Throop

OCD Director