

TOWN OF RUMFORD BOARD *of* SELECTPERSONS PUBLIC HEARING
RUMFORD FIRE CENTRAL STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT
MARCH 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting called to Order at 6:00

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Manager Carter addressed audience with a little background. . Past Selectboards, Town Managers and Fire Chiefs have gone before the public in the past to garner support for a new Fire Station. It has failed each time. In the early 1990's a 1.5 million dollar station was proposed and it was rejected. In 2001, a 1.9 million dollar station was proposed and it was rejected. Each time Citizens said it was too expensive. In 2009, a grant was submitted in the amount of 3 million to replace the station and we did not receive the grant. Each time we delay the replacement of the Fire Station which is needed the costs go up.

Looking to replace with an affordable stick built facility that is around 12-13,000 sf. A study will be completed to determine size needed. Estimated cost is between 4 -4.5 million.

Money from Rumford Power Associates TIF extension in the amount of 1.35 million will be added to account to be used for a new Fire station. We are hoping to receive a Federal earmark to assist us with funding. We will apply for any available grants but generally the Town has too much ability to bond due to being good fiscal condition. We do qualify for low interest loans.

Chief Reed gave a power point presentation showing the condition of the current station. There are many good size cracks in the floor and beams where the floor continues to settle. The cracks have been documented and evidence shows that they continue to expand.

The current station was built in 1924.

5 Fire Apparatus and two trailers total weight now is 141,806 lbs., (70.9 tons). Ladder 3 will not fit in the building and is in a 17-year temporary building out back. Delay in response due to its location.
The fire station does not have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system

Selectboard members Brennick, DiConzo and Chase all spoke for the need of a new Fire Station.

Former Fire Chief Bob Chase spoke that the conditions to get worse and are deteriorating more rapidly. The time is now and to move forward alone as we have tried to do it collaboratively in the past and it has not worked.

Citizen Mark Hunt asked about the location. Chris Brennick explained the lots in the downtown area of Falmouth St and Hosmer Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm