Town of Amherst

Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article 4

Fire/Ambulance Headquarters and Station Facility

Presentation to Special Town Meeting
History of the Project and Growing Responsibilities

• Central Fire Station – built in 1929
  • fire vehicles were smaller
  • about 150 calls a year

• North Fire Station – built in 1975
  • annual fire and emergency medical services (EMS) calls totaled about 2,000.

• Today
  • fire trucks and ambulances barely fit through Central Fire Station’s doors.
  • the department handles close to 6,500 EMS and fire calls a year.
Why does the Town need a new fire/ambulance station?

• Studies findings in 1966, 1983 and 2006 – emergency response times to areas of South and East Amherst do not meet industry standards.

• All three studies recommended replacing the central station with a new one located somewhat south of the downtown.

• The full 2006 report can be found at http://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/33791.
Where would a new fire/ambulance station be located?

• The 2006 study recommended site – along the South Pleasant Street corridor, roughly in the vicinity of the Mill Lane intersection

• This would:
  • Improve response times to South and East Amherst
  • Maintaining adequate coverage for the areas where most calls come from – Downtown, University Drive, and UMass

• Evaluation of possible sites would be part of the feasibility study. The current location of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is a potential site.
Source: Fire Station Site & Building Assessment Work, August 2006
www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/33791
Anticipated Project Phases

2016
Mar
Nov

2017
May
Nov

2018
May
Nov

2019

Feasibility Study

Schematic Design & Cost Estimate

Final Design & Bidding

Construction

* TM vote

Special Town Meeting - Fall 2016  Article 4
Once funds are approved, the Town would contract with a consultant to prepare a feasibility study for a new fire/ambulance headquarter and station.

The feasibility study would:

• Define the space requirements for the department’s programs based upon
  o interviews with Amherst Fire Department staff
  o a review of current state and national standards for fire stations
• Identify up to three potential sites
• Provide conceptual design and floor plans
• Provide a preliminary cost estimates
Questions?