

TOWN COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 7, 2016  
6:30 PM  
Town Hall Council Chambers

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Attendance: Councilman Kenneth Kellogg, Chairman (“KK”)  
Councilman Dee Dee Martin (“DM”)  
Councilman Kevin Reid, Secretary (“KR”)

Also Present: Frank Lieto, Town Council Chair, (“FL”)  
Chris Krize, (“CK”)  
Chief George Lattanzi, (“GL”)  
Chief Bob Galbriath, (“BG”)  
Chief Scott Rose – Stepney, (“SR”)  
Dep. Chief Josh Krize, (“JK”)

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1. Call to Order
  - a. 6:37 by KK
2. Public Participation
3. Minutes of the 02/01/2016 Meeting
  - a. DM Motion to approve, KR second.
  - b. Passed 3-0
4. Unfinished Business
  - a. Chalk Hill Facility Report
    - a. KK desired to close loop in final format.
    - b. For record, final version was produced and approved by Town Council

## 5. New Business

### a. Fire Apparatus

#### i. History:

1. CK represented the history of the apparatus story: 2009 replaced 6 fire apparatus. 6 most aged pieces of equipment in fleet. 20-30 years old.
  - a. Half of the fleet was replaced during the 2009 refresh
2. Requested in 2009, to plan a refresh cycle as the other half of the fleet. Approximately \$3.7m.
3. Next round of refresh was 2014. No refresh since 2009.
  - a. Fire Departments want to take advantage of “Group Purchasing”
  - b. Money would be put aside up front

#### ii. Situation Today:

1. Since F14, apparatus lifecycle was requested
2. CK Presented a copy of the “Apparatus Plan” to members of the SPC
  - a. One retained by chairman for record
3. JK \$1.2m was saved on the last group purchase. Every year purchase does not have a discount.
4. Current refresh of the 5 trucks is \$3.9m with an immediate \$238k reduction. This is before any negotiation.
5. The vendor from 2009 cannot meet the needs of the current ask. The fire departments are trying to work with them.
6. Request by JK would be to start putting budget away now for a purchase years away.
7. One of the recent trucks was just recently offered well over the wholesale value.
  - a. CK mentioned that resale value on trucks is based on a lot of variables. Often, a town will lose an apparatus and need one immediately. That artificially increases the value of a neighboring town’s apparatus.
8. CK mentioned the ISO rating – town must maintain that rating, and if it doesn’t, many things like house value could be affected.
9. KK asked about other town’s / region’s purchasing behaviors. Fire Department attendees mentioned most towns do group purchasing. Trumbull, on the other hand does not due to the way they are set up.
10. KK asked what larger communities do. Fire Department

attendees answered that they sign larger contracts, and can commit to more apparatus purchased over years.

11. JK mentioned that the larger communities have career firefighters. They are more connected to specific apparatus, and can represent the need more.
12. CK summarized that the specific technical needs are the fire departments accountability, and the negotiation of commercial/procurement matters are a Town's accountability.
13. FL asked why there's a ladder truck. Fire Department attendees mentioned height of buildings, reach needed and roof pitches.
  - a. Our ladder trucks are also versatile. They can do more than just ladder work.
14. FL asked if we looked at this cohesively as a fire department. CK answered that the Fire Apparatus plan is for the "Town" not just company by company.
15. JK mentioned that the three fire companies have reached out for a study to a few vendors. We can investigate costs if we want to pursue.
  - a. A study like this will take about 200 days to 1 year.
16. CK mentioned that this is all directly proportional to the risk profile the town is willing to accept.
17. DM mentioned it's important to stress the "togetherness" of the fire departments in their approaches and plans.
18. CK mentioned that they do apply for grants, but when appropriate.
19. FL asked the Departments if there was another number other than \$3.7m? Could we bond \$2m this year and then \$2m the next. JK stated that we only owe the money upon delivery. So we wouldn't have to bond all of it this year.

#### b. Fire Stations

- i. CK stated six fire houses. Three are owned by town. Houses built in 1982, and historically the departments took on the maintenance.
- ii. CK stated just roof is around \$85k. However, there are major issues and the roof really should be reconstructed. That will cost \$300k - \$500k.
- iii. CK mentioned that if they had live in rooms, they would benefit. The question asked is why would they invest more in this building – Monroe Fire.
- iv. The plan would be to investigate a new building that could be a new EMS headquarters as well. All this a strategic initiative.

- v. SR mentioned his station needs a roof. Boilers were replaced this year. New floors would be nice, but building other than roof is structurally sound. New driveway is not critical.
- vi. BG mentioned his house driveway is critical and very old. Boiler was replaced. Generators are all original.
- vii. KK asked CK if Jockey Hollow would still be utilized? It would be used still, but it's up for discussion.
- viii. GL mentioned that a firehouse should be where you want to be. No place to gather and get a culture. Volunteer systems should be attractive for retention and recruitment.
- ix. CK stated that the Emergency Services Facility as a combined modern fire service and EMS would greatly benefit the cost model over the construction of 2 buildings if they were constructed separately. CK mentioned QOS is important as well. With a new site, an example would be that if EMS personnel is onsite, and they can drive a truck, there's opportunity for combination.
- x. KK asked about a study on the houses? CK answered by saying there's an ad hoc committee addressing this now. The 3 houses would participate for the whole town. It's in Needs Assessment phase.
- xi. KK mentioned that EMS has their study done and could entertain a site viability assessment.

## 6. Adjournment

- a. KK motioned to adjourn
- b. KK adjourned meeting at 20:35