

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 31, 2011 PUBLIC HEARING

Board members present were Gene Armstrong, Dan Champney, Ron Lafreniere, David Parot and RJ Vallie. Also present were Fire Chief Mike Gervia, members of the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department and about twenty members of the community. The public hearing opened at 6:45. Introductions were made and Fire Chief Gervia made a short presentation describing the fire station.

Chief Mike Gervia: The station was built in 1978 with mostly federal money. The town has replaced the overhead doors, but little else. Right now the building needs a new roof, new windows and some new plumbing and there's very little insulation. Last year the heating costs jumped up to about \$8,400 and the heat is kept at 60°. We're just trying to fix what we've got.

Joss Besse: What's the estimated costs of the renovations?

Gervia: Originally we were looking at about \$420 thousand, but the latest estimates look like we can do this for around \$350,000.

Besse: Any grant sources in mind?

Gervia: We didn't qualify recently since most money was for second auxiliary stations or just stand by generators. But, I am looking.

John Devine: What's the proposed R-Value?

Gervia: R-28. We'd like 6' under the roof and 3" foam on the side walls and 2" on the brick.

Wayne Ring: How'd you come up with the figures?

Gervia: I called vendors and sub-contractors and used roofing prices that I'm familiar with.

David Parot: This would be a good spot for a shelter.

Ring: Will you change out the heating system?

Gervia: Not in the bays, it's fairly new. But we would in the office area and with new insulation it'll work better.

Parot: Is there a mold problem?

Gervia: There's no air flow so it's a problem.

Firefighter Mo Nadeau: We will need a dehumidifier especially with the added foam.

Ron Lafreniere: What's the cost of heating this building and the highway garage?

Deborah La Rivière: The station was \$8,400 last year and during the same time period the garage was about \$6,200.

Nadeau: There is a lot of mold, in the cupboards and closets.

Ring: Will you have new roof rafters?

Gervia: There's no need. We're just changing out the outside, 5/8" plywood then a standing seam. The inside we plan on leaving exposed.

Besse: What's the town's debt load at this point?

La Riviere: About 16% of our over-all budget is dedicated to paying off debt service. We are carrying a debt of about \$800,000.

Devine: Will someone be overseeing the project for the town?

RJ Vallie: Yes.

Debbie Nadeau: If this gets approved, when will it happen?

Gervia: Probably this summer, we'll be able to move the vehicles to the highway garage. We anticipate that with renovations, we'll be able to cut the heat and the electric in half.

Devine: It'd be nice to see all your estimates in writing before town meeting.

Gervia: I'll plan on having a hand out.

Vallie: What about plumbing?

Gervia: Right now, we need to use a screwdriver to flush the toilet in the main bathroom and the other bathroom is used for storage.

Besse: What's wrong with the toilets?

Gervia: It's sand from the water system. We plan on using lap siding on the outside walls, since too much metal impairs the radio frequency of the garage door openers.

Bess: Do you have a Plan B? What if this fails?

Well, the problem isn't going away. It'll just get worse.

Nadeau: It'll end up costing more if we wait.

Devine: How will this effect the tax rate?

La Riviere: For every \$12,000 we add to the budget, we add 1¢ to the tax rate.

Fire Captain Jeff Garfield: This is the town's equipment that's in this building if the ceiling falls in.

Vallie: We will need to do something if this gets turned down. This will have to be fixed.

Mark Robert: Can we do one thing at a time?

Gervia: As soon as you apply for a permit for a public building, it brings the state into play.

Devine: What about handicapped accessibility for the upstairs?

Gervia: If only fire department members are allowed upstairs, we don't need to have it handicapped accessible. This is going to be no frills; a garage with four bays. We will have another informational meeting on February 21 at Smilie School.

There were no other questions or comments. The public hearing ended at 7:30.

Attest:

Deborah La Rivière
Town Clerk