

## Finance Committee Minutes – 11/2/11

Present: Bergenfeld, Malek, Shute, Rich, Tomenchok, Little, Hamtil

Absent: Hoyer

Other: Jeff Ent (Fire Co. Chief)

Minutes of 10/4/11: Approved as submitted

Proposed DPW/Fire Dept Bldg: Discussion of improving the current facilities vs building a new facility.

Ent explained why any new facility should be located near the current one in Mt. Airy.

Insurance rates and fast response time are the main drivers.

Options for a new facility would be to knock down the existing firehouse and rebuild on site, put the new building in the existing parking lot, or purchase the property currently for sale at the corner of Mill Rd and 179 and build there. The third option could use preservation funding for part of the purchase.

Ent outlined the problems with the existing facility:

- Cracks in the masonry walls
- Cracks and noticeable movement under load in the floor.
- Cracks in the roof structure
- Obsolete windows
- Lack of insulation
- HVAC problems
- Inadequate exhaust system
- Lack of security for equipment during Auxiliary dinners.
- Septic system totally inadequate for dinner functions, needs to be pumped before every event which offsets a lot of the benefits of the fundraiser.

As for the ideal requirements for a new fire-house Ent submitted the following:

- 6 double deep bays, 2 of which would be drive-through.
- Bunkroom
- Kitchenette
- Dayroom
- Locker Room with showers (could be back to back with Police)
- Training/meeting room (could be shared with Police)
- Storage
- Modern exhaust system
- Auxiliary should be completely separate space
- Emergency helicopter landing area in parking lot (approx. 10,000 sq. ftr.)
- Administration and operations offices.

Shute asked about Emergency management. Space for this should also be supplied.

Ent also suggested exploring dorm room type living space for young volunteers as a possible recruiting and functional improvement.

Bergenfeld estimated the cost for the above at \$1.5 million exclusive of the costs of acquiring any new property.

Hunting Township Properties: Will review existing regulations after hunting season for possible improvements.

SHREC- Still viable after drop in SREC market. Swan Creek reported that they are moving forward.

PILOT - Previous month's report of a solar PILOT program in Kingwood incorrect. No way to use PILOT in NJ unless through redevelopment.

Police Merger/County-wide Police: No progress

Reassessment- Held over

New Business:

Mill Rd. repairs/improvements: Rich presented status; Township Engineer is estimating \$325K cost (\$125K construction). Consensus unchanged that no township funds should be committed until FEMA funds are secured.

Debt Management Plan: Shute volunteered to put a proposal together with the assistance of Hoyer (in absentia).

Purchasing Policy: Discussion of needed purchasing policy. Consensus that improved policy is needed. Tomenchok volunteered to draft policy. Little volunteered to assist.

Next Meeting: 11/30