

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON PRELIMINARY CONCEPT FOR FIRE STATION EXPANSION

February 14, 2022

-Questions Posed by the Orleans School Committee and Answers Provided by Town Officials-

Q: A public notice in the Town of Yarmouth was issued for water violations, as a chemical used by fire departments turned up in their wells. Has the Orleans Fire Department been sampling for the specific chemical PFAS6 as required by the new regulations of April 20, 2021? What wells do exist around the Orleans Fire Department and Orleans Elementary School, and what are the results of those samples?

A: The Orleans Water Department was contacted, and testing has been done on a quarterly basis on all the wells. Those wells came in on non-detect range for that chemical (PFAS6). The Orleans Water Department also provided a map to show the water shed location and where wells are in relation to the school and fire station. Both buildings are well down-gradient of the water shed area. Chief Deering noted that in 2016 the fire department began using an environmentally-friendly foam.

Q: Would you describe where the closest well is to Orleans Elementary School?

A: The nearest well is south of the transfer station, which is at least ½ mile from the school.

Q: If the Orleans School Committee agrees to allow the Orleans Elementary School property to be in the feasibility study, does our list of considerations get factored into the entire project, including cost?

A: This process is in phases. The initial phase would be the decision by Orleans School Committee that you wish to participate in the feasibility study. If you wish to participate, that is as far as we go at the moment. Next, we would provide your list of considerations to the Consultant, the Select Board, and the Feasibility Committee. Those considerations would be incorporated into the scope of the project, and some of those items will need to be defined as to what the intent is. At the end of the day, everything related to the project will be included into the cost (design, construction, annual operating costs) and decisions will be made as to whether we go further or not.

Q: Principal Pender, you submitted a list of considerations that you expressed and were reviewed at our last meeting on January 24th; has anything new been added to that list, and are you still comfortable with that list?

A: No, there are no additions since January 24th, and Principal Pender is comfortable with the list of considerations.

Q: It's my understanding that we are waiting to see if any private property owners step forward and give options for a new fire station; are there any municipal areas still being considered, or are we just waiting to see if private owners come forward? What is that time frame on who may be coming forward?

A: At this point, we (the Town) have received responses from three architectural firms; the review of those three firms is being done now. The first task of the Feasibility Committee is to look at every piece of town property that could potentially be used, and those properties will all be evaluated. An RFP is being finalized now that will identify potential interested sellers of private properties. The Feasibility Committee will define the area that is of most beneficial need to the town to address response times, and will do a targeted mailing for those property owners in that area. A notice will be sent out of what we'd like them to consider, and then we will be in a position to know when responses come in, if we have an interested seller that we'd be in a position to contact directly. This is expected to take place over next two months. We will have the committee working on what we do own; identify potential private property owners that may have an interest,

and evaluate those sites; and the goal is to identify three sites and use them for further evaluation whether town owned, under the control of the Orleans School Committee, or privately owned, and have a report to the Select Board by August.

Q: How long will the construction phase would be? What will the noise level and disruption be like to the elementary school during construction? Can we limit the construction to when school is not in session? Based upon the model of the proposed new fire station, it seems very close to the elementary school building.

A: The construction would probably take about two years. It would be advantageous to take care of the noise-impact related items like cleaning and soil stabilization during the summer months. The whole timing and strategy will be worked out in the feasibility study. Based upon the timing of the spring and fall Town Meetings, it would be impossible to do any work prior to Summer 2024.