

Question & Answer Sheet from Stakeholder Meeting #1

Q 1. Is the only way to proceed with this project with a bond issue? -Bob Sanderson

A bond issuance is necessary for the construction of Station 1. The Township does not have the cash on hand to fully fund the Station 1 project. This DOES NOT mean there will be a bond levy request. Bonds can be issued with or without a levy passage. Also see Question 16.

Q 2. Building a 3rd fire station, would that enable us to reduce the size of our main station and reduce the overall cost? -Brian Massie

The current designs for Stations #1 and #2 are based on the expected response demand of those stations based on current development projections. As future development occurs in the portions of the Township that are not yet built out, a third Station may be required as noted in the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association report. Until that development occurs, a third station is not required to meet the current demands of the Township. In terms of station 3, our operational budget cannot support the staffing, equipment, or operational costs for station 3. Adding a 3rd station would require an additional ambulance and engine or ladder truck plus enough firefighters to keep them staffed.

Q 3. What's the breakdown of the administrative spaces for Station 1 and Station 2? -Chris Andrews

The current program for Station 1 includes the fire department headquarters administrative spaces such as: Chief's Office, Deputy Chief's Office, Administrative Assistant's Office, Fire Prevention, Records Storage, and a Conference Room. The program for Station 1 also includes an Operations Room, office space for the Shift Officer and a Study for the firefighters on duty at the station. In total these administrative areas account for approximately 1,700sf. The program for Station 2 includes an Operations Room and office space for the Shift Officers. In total these administrative spaces account for approximately 520sf. There are no dedicated administrative spaces in the existing station #2. Overall, administrative spaces between the old and proposed station have not increased.

Q 4. Are there any other firehouses in our area (Lake County or neighboring counties) that are similar to what we are proposing? -Chris Andrews

The design for each fire station is based on the department's needs and the surrounding context of the neighborhood in which the station will be located. There are fire stations that have similar design aesthetics in terms of use of materials like stone and fiber cement siding, but the floor plans and site plan are unique to this station. The most significant difference in our proposal compared to other stations in the area is specific to the transition zone between the apparatus bays and the house/business side of the station. When other departments were considering new facilities, "hot zone design" had not yet been developed.

Q 5. For Station 2, is the plan to demolish the house owned by the township and build the new station on that property as well as the current property where Station 2 is now? -Chris Andrews

The design of the new Station 2 will occupy the three parcels that currently house Station 2, the house with fire prevention offices, and the empty lot to the rear of those two parcels.

Q 6. How will these new stations better help the public? Will there be better response time building these stations in the same locations? -Michael Fisher

Concord fire has always done everything we can to improve services. When you call 911, we show up. There is much that goes into making that happen. Our goal is to improve what we call turn-out time both in terms of

time and safety. The firefighters at the existing station #1 have to navigate a long stairwell to get to the trucks which is a significant safety concern and slows response time. Having the firefighters live and work on the same level as the apparatus should provide safer and more efficient access to those vehicles. Additionally, not all of our response vehicles are kept within the fire stations. At station #2 our command vehicle is kept outside year round. At station #1 our command vehicle is kept outside year round, the 2nd due ambulance is kept in the service department and our off road rescue vehicle is kept in a barn across the street. Not having these vehicles immediately accessible increases response time. The proposed facilities will improve response time.

Q 7. Where are our firefighters working out now? Will the fire department get better/stronger with these new plans? -Michael Fisher

The firefighters currently have small workout rooms at both existing stations that are used every day. Physical fitness training is an important part of the daily responsibilities of fire and rescue personnel and is governed by NFPA Standard 1583, which requires each department to administer an exercise and fitness training program. Research has shown that firefighters have a higher risk of heart attacks than the general population due to the extreme stress their bodies are exposed to during incident response. By maintaining a high level of physical fitness, firefighters are able to help reduce these increased risks. It is also recommended that intense physical training be performed in pairs or groups with appropriate visibility in case of injury or emergency.

Q 8. During the last project, was there any kind of comprehensive capturing of the objections? What has been done in the past or what are we going to do in the future to figure out what those objections are (communication program, redesign)? -Debbie Rosch

We have reviewed the objections of the public during the original proposal phase. We are addressing those objections through Stakeholder meetings. We also have been reaching out to the community to provide additional information about the current state of our stations. We have placed all information related to this project on our website in order to remain fully transparent. We have also been working on the redesign of both stations. We welcome any one with questions, comments, advice, or concerns to contact us for a discussion.

Q 9. Since the plan for Station 2 is to pay for it in cash, can we start the project on Station 2 now and build Station 1 after? -Lawrence Esker

The decision on which station to construct first is still being considered. There are pros/cons to each.

Q 10. How are we paying for Station 2, JEDD Funds? -Will Rosch

Station 2 will be paid for utilizing JEDD and Capital Fund revenue.

Q 11. Where does our cash come from? Can we use municipal bonding for the station that we need bonding for? -Cecilia Velvets

Our cash comes from a variety of sources including property tax, JEDD revenue, Hotel Taxes, and local government fund. Yes, we can utilize bonds to construct the stations. A bond is similar to a loan.

Q 12. Are we looking at the big picture instead of being focused on one big station? (possible Station 3, ladder truck, our connection with Auburn Career Center, percentage of EMS runs, \$1 million balance at the end of the year for fire budget, shortage of parking, land for sale across town hall) -Denise Brewster

We do not have plans for the purchase of a ladder truck in the near future. When the department/community gets to the point of needing a ladder truck we will be considering a station #3 more closely as that is the district it would most likely be needed. We will continue our relationships with our neighboring departments through

mutual aid agreements for ladder truck responses from Painesville City, Painesville Twp., Chardon, Mentor, Willoughby, and Perry. Concord Township fulfilled its obligation to Painesville City and the purchase of the ladder truck that was recently taken out of service. The agreement expired when that truck was taken out of service. There was never any intention of extending that agreement to the purchase of the next ladder truck. The \$1 million is to cover expenses of the first quarter of the next year before we receive our tax revenue in April and is not extra money.

Q 13. What are the advantages and disadvantages of pre-engineered bays? How about metal roofs? -Denise Brewster

Pre-engineered structures have been considered for this project and will continue to be evaluated as an option for these stations. Pre-engineered structures are most efficient when used for simple, open volumes with limited customization. The potential advantages of using a pre-engineered structure include reduced costs for the structural steel frame and speed of construction. The potential disadvantages of using pre-engineered structural systems in fire stations are generally related to the unique systems and customizations required by the use. The decision on whether to use pre-engineered structures on either station will be made as the designs further develop and further cost information is reviewed. Metal roofing has been explored for this project and will continue to be evaluated during the remaining design phases. Metal roofing is more durable than shingle roofing, but that durability comes at an increased cost.

Q 14. Given the topography of the soccer field, is it possible to have a lower level to put storage and exercise room to shrink the footprint? -Denise Brewster

Further study of locating the new Station 1 on the soccer field site will include determining if a basement is a cost-effective solution based on the topography. If so, the program will be reviewed with the fire department to determine what spaces would best be located in the basement.

Q 15. With the number of deaths in our firefighters, how does that compare with newer or older stations? (more deaths with older stations...?) -Denise Brewster

Over the last 5 to 10 years, the cancer rates in the fire and rescue community have been studied and documented. The results of these studies show the uniquely high impact of the exposures experienced by our first responders. Over the last 5 years, the concept of Hot Zone Design and enhanced decontamination has become an industry standard design principle in fire station design as represented by its incorporation into the October 2019 version of NFPA Standard 1851, "Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting", establishing industry wide standards related to cleaning and preliminary exposure reduction within the fire station. As the concerns regarding the cancer rates in first responders have now been identified, the fire and rescue community can begin to collect data regarding the impact of Hot Zone Design principles on firefighter cancer rates.

Q 16. What are the advantages and disadvantages of bond levies coming to the tax payers and not coming to the tax payers? Why didn't we try and finance our fire stations without coming to the public first? -Faith Andrews

The main advantage of a levy backed bond package is the ability to obtain a lower interest rate since the community votes to guarantee the payback of the bonds. Another advantage is that it allows the Township to operate without being "cash strapped" allowing for the ability to handle emergencies or unanticipated expenses such as imminent road repairs. In the past five years, we have had emergency road repairs exceeding \$1.2 million that were unanticipated. The original ask of the voters of 0.83 mils (\$29.05 per \$100K of home value per year) was thought to be very affordable for the ability to finance the station project and allowed for the ability

to pay down the debt much faster and provide flexibility for other financing needs of our community. Without a voter backed levy, there is no ability to pay the debt service off early.

Q 17. Will COVID-19 have an effect on our designs/process of our stations? –Chief Dick Terriaco

The Hot Zone Design principles included in the proposed designs of the new stations provide spaces to allow for decontamination of personnel and gear that have been exposed to contaminants in the field. Such exposures may include bodily fluids from EMS calls; carcinogens from structure fires; and biohazards from infectious diseases, among others. As we progress into the future phases of design, policies and procedures that have been implemented to address concerns related to COVID-19 will be reviewed and incorporated into those spaces, as necessary. Additionally, this pandemic has reinforced the importance of single user bunk and toilet/shower facilities as this concept helps to limit the potential exposure of the crew. The proposed designs of the new fire stations address the many challenges firefighters face today in terms of contamination be it fire, chemical, radiological, infectious diseases, blood borne pathogens, or insects such as bed bugs. The proposed design will also allow space to store appropriate levels of PPE that is currently being stored in the training room at Station 1.

Q 18. What have we invested so far to get the prior designs for Station 1 & 2? Do we have a contract with the architects LeMay Erickson and what does that entail (finances)? -Linda Kangas

We are under contract with Lemay, Erickson, Wilcox for architectural services related to the fire station projects. Our contract is currently authorized through design development and construction drawings for both stations. Currently, we have appropriated and paid \$416,646.22 for architectural and engineering services. Due to the levy failure, we are obligated for an additional \$305,000.00 for additional architectural work related to redesign.

Q 19. According to the architectural ways to determine fire needs in the 2018 study, are we still adding two additional firefighters to our staff, a ladder truck, a 3rd fire station within a 10-year period? Are we looking at the 10-year plan to determine what we might need and how to finance it? -Vanessa Pesec

There are no plans for purchasing a ladder truck, adding a 3rd station, or adding two additional firefighters to each station.

Q 20. Are we building our fire stations as efficient as possible? (eliminate hallways, single use rooms, integrated storage, simple designs, eliminate every square foot we can, buildings as close to a square cube as possible so it's easy to maintain, no decorations, unnecessary materials, everything justifies its expense, don't build what you don't need) -Vanessa Pesec

Yes, we have designed the stations efficiently and all the spaces serve a current need by our fire department. Finishes and materials have not been finalized.

Q 21. Are we going to use contractors outside of the area or from Northeast Ohio? –Hal Sekula

Anyone is welcome to submit bids. When the construction drawings are completed, we will place the construction work out for a competitive bid. All contractors are able to bid for the work and we will select based on lowest and best bid pursuant to State of Ohio laws and regulations.

Q 22. According to the 10-year plan, what will we need (land, 3rd fire station)? -Denise Brewster

We need more information about this 10-year plan that is referenced.

Q 23. The previous project proposed came out to about \$30 a year per every \$100,000 on your house, correct? - Lawrence Esker

Correct. The previous levy was for 0.83 mills which broke down to \$29.05 per \$100k home value per year.

Q 24. Did we look at a firm (architect) that is close to us? What are we paying for in the contract? Are we flying people in for meetings like this? –Debbie Carpenter

We solicited architectural firms to bid on the project through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. There were 13 firms that applied. The Trustees formed a review committee who went through every package and selected three finalists. The three finalists were then interviewed by the Trustees, Administrator, and Fire Chief in an all day public meeting. Lemay Erickson, Willcox was selected. The contract is for design services, engineering work, consulting, and construction drawings for both fire stations. Yes, we did pay for the architects to travel here for the meetings. Chris and Katie from Lemay Erickson traveled by car for the meetings. It should be noted that the architect is only one part of the team that was hired. The second part of the team is the engineering firm that does a great deal of work on the project. The engineering firm that is partnered with the architect is a local company and the lead engineer is a Concord resident.