

Meeting will be held at the Fire Station

Fire Department Building Committee March 21, 6:30 pm

Mike Hogan, Skip Bothfeld, Jeff Hazlett, Dean Deasy, Andy Luce, Jeff Durgin, Karen Deasy, Don Mitchell, Jeffrey Haslett, Steve Cox Meeting Called to order 6:32 pm

1. Review agenda

Add VOSHA report under other business, agenda Jeff motion to accept agenda, seconded by skip vote yes - unanimous

2. Public comment

Mike wanted to put a few points out for discussion on how to improve communication to address into the notes as a way to increase public participation:

- Minutes sent to all Selectboard members
- Bimonthly Chronicle articles, Monthly if paper shifts to monthly
- Mailing and public posting sites for information, Willey building, Post office, Hardware store
- More open house opportunities and access for public to see the facility
- Speakers to discuss facility needs and decon regulations/requirements, Skip indicated he has some contacts and can set something up for a future meeting
- Be repetitive in getting out facts
- Post project site on FD webpage, link page to town web site

3. Discuss grants and fundraisers

Dean indicated he is working on a spread sheet of available grants and amounts available for different parts of the work. Hallie from Senator Sanders office indicated to the group a list of potential funding sources, she also will be in touch about new funding as it becomes available. Sources, USDA, FEMA, Home Security are on the list, there are other funds for equipment costs. Don indicated that donations for the Facility from community members could also provide some funding. Mike will confirm setup of donations account for building fund so information can be posted. Skip will touch base with Sue Murry at Cabot Creamery to discuss support and Hazmat facility needs/training. Perhaps a fundraiser letter as well. The Ambulance service may be able to apply for grants as well to facilitate the construction, lease agreement should be established for required areas and spaces. It is not widely known that the Ambulance is a private organization and provides support to the Fire Department for facility maintenance and projects at the current station. Possibility of leasing or arranging for VSP or Sheriff to utilize space should also be investigated.

4. Next Site inspection - schedule

Skip will make plans during warmer weather to visit stations at Georgia and Randolph, the Randolph station has just been completed. While at Williston Georgia invited Cabot to visit their facility.

5. Other business

a. Vosha report

Dean indicated that after the last Selectboard meeting the fire department contacted VOSHA, DPS, Vermont Center for Independent Living, DEC and ANR about completing facility compliance checks..

Luke McCarthy of Vosha visited the fire house on March 20th 2019

Dean reported I will have a full report for you hopefully early next week. I would like to point out that often times small towns overlook the potential liability issue with use of public spaces. Since you allow the use of your space for both a private entity (the ambulance crew) and other various non-profits and organizations the burden is on the town to provide a safe and healthy space for those entities. If a worst-case scenario happens and one of the ambulance crew slips and breaks an ankle on, say, one of the floor drains... not only would OSHA cite the ambulance company for exposing their crew to the hazard, but they would cite the town since they "controlled" the building. Not to mention there is a liability there if the crew member decides to sue the town.

Items VOSHA discussed at their inspection we should have a final report in a week. .

- Installation of free standing emergency eye wash / shower station with clear access around it
- Installation of CO detectors
- Installation of anti fall harness attached to ceiling for usage if working above 4ft AFF on apparatus
- Means of egress was less than minimum clearance requirement (28") from back of station to exterior
- Lack of proper safe storage areas within building.
- Bays being utilized for storage causing possible "crush zone" during apparatus movement
As a general rule there should never be anyone other than a spotter standing behind an apparatus that is backing up.
- Oxygen bottles cannot be stored near source of ignition. Must be 25FT away from anything flammable or in a approved fire rated storage area: *"considering your space limitations and items kept in the facility, yes, they should be behind a ½ hour rated firewall" there is no location within the existing station that these could be located to meet this requirement.*
- Gas cans need to be stored in approved vented cabinet *if 25 gallons of any class 1 flammable. Gasoline, acetone, ethanol, methanol, mineral spirits, etc. There was 10 gallons of gasoline in storage during our visit and I'll bet we could find a few more gallons of Cat. 1 flammables. Since you are hovering around that mark, and you are a Fire Department... I would recommend a cabinet.*
- Maintenance apparatus oils and paint stored in approved cabinets

- Installation of exit signs.
- Air bottles (in mechanical room) need to be stored in approved racks outside of mechanical area
- Mechanical room not permitted for storage. *you really want to limit storage in a room that contains a furnace or air handler. The last thing you want is to suck any contaminants into the system and pump them out into the facility.*
- Approved "sealed" venting pipe for emergency generator exhaust must be installed *if you are going to continue to draw breathing air from the area, yes.*
- No storage permitted in area of intake of SCBA compressor *This is critical. Since this is the air responders will be breathing there should be nothing in that area that off gasses.*
- Installation of approved cleaning space required for decon. (scba etc). Use of existing sink in bay that is used for additional tasks not permitted for apparatus cleaning due to possibility blood born virus cross contamination. *the current set-up does not pass the straight face test. Washing all the equipment in an undersized sink which is shared by an ambulance staff is not particularly sanitary. At min there should be two separate sinks for washing equipment and a third for hand washing.*
- Floor drains are located between bays and missing covers. Note: floor drain dumps out back into river - not permitted by ANR)
- Open type mechanical door openers must be replaced with sealed units. *Or disabled when accessing the top of the apparatus.*
- Exposed lights near apparatus must be enclosed.
- Ice over hang on outside of building needs to be addressed. *This is more of a liability issue than anything. The last thing the town wants is a kid under there when it lets go. Not to mention if it lets go it could total a car.*
- When apparatus is on apron members shall not walk into travel lane of road to access other side of apparatus. *Depending on how much you go into a lane, AOT / MUTCD regulations require you actually close a lane. At that point you would need cones, flaggers, signs, the whole set up. If apparatus is not in lane, but members are, they need high visibility clothing.*
- Steps into lower elevation meeting room
- Heating system presently sucks apparatus exhaust and distributes into meeting room and bathroom. 2 separate heating system need to be installed (with positive pressure on meeting room side- NFPA). *If the intake weren't 2 feet away from a diesel exhaust pipe, you wouldn't necessarily need two different systems. If you could pull fresh air in at all times it could be one system. However, you would still need a higher velocity fan feeding "non garage" areas to create positive pressure space.*
- Meeting room to bay door is not air tight sealed.
- No exhaust removal system for apparatus, Either direct connect discharge hoses should be used or air scrubbers, *VOSHA is now recommending air scrubbers as the hoses can be a safety hazard when they release from the equipment.*
- Hose tower unsafe for continue use (many violations) *The biggest of which is a HUGE fall hazard. This is probably the biggest physical hazard we saw. It would be incredibly easy for some to lose their grip or footing and fall 8-10 feet, we have been instructed not to use this area.*
- Confined space in bays (side and rear) when apparatus is backing into building.
- storage above cabinets unsafe location for easy removal. *There is no space with the equipment in the bay to set up a ladder to access the storage above the cabinets.*

Building is used by

1. ambulance (a private entity with members being paid (stipends))

2. boy scouts,
3. apparatus bays been used by American Red cross blood drive.
4. Public

Committee discussed issues and indicated that this list is also important for any redevelopment plans as the proposed new use of the building would also need to comply with the reported violations and this would eliminate some uses as some of these items would be expensive to .

b. Lavender Report

Dean passed out copies to review of the Lavender report it is a compilation of information on Fire Personnel and safety with respect to carcinogens and exposure on fire scenes, a discussion on how new protocols are changing guidelines on how gear and equipment is handled on a fire scene and when transported back to the building, how the equipment is washed and put back into service. Many departments we visited are making green zones or clean zones, areas where gear is not permitted. This report has been distributed to Cabot Fire members. Jeff indicated that Town provisions to protect fire service members through the state of Vermont. Practices change on exposure and what people had been exposed to, some departments have two sets of turnout gear for each member, Cabot does not, gear when returned to the station is washed and then must air dry prior to going back into service. Weather impacts the speed that gear dries and it may be out of commission for at least a day sometimes longer. There are 11 best practice standards to be implemented for fire service personnel, Dean discussed one of the major changes and recommendations in the Lavender report is shower in an hour, Andy indicated that EMS personnel are suppose to also follow these guidelines shower and change at the station as well washing their clothing at the station prior to taking it home. One of the major pieces of equipment the new facility will need is a hose and gear drying unit to help facilitate this as well as standard clothes washing equipment, a few of the stations inspected had gear drying facilities that met the requirements. The Lavender report will be posted on the Town's web page and FD page also.

6. Next meeting date April 18th 2019, 6:30 pm
7. Adjourn - motion to adjourn, Skip seconded Dean meeting adjourned 8:05, a brief tour was held for residents who attended the meeting

Submitted by Karen Deasy