

Proposed future property for a new Fire Station on behalf of the Building Committee:

The Building Committee has been working for quite some time on the best option for a new Fire Station. In 2009, the town spent \$30,000 on a feasibility study. Unfortunately, the proposals were turned away at that time. We've recently hired a different firm, for a new study to be done. We've tried our best to make the existing location work. Every architect firm that has been hired has come to the same conclusion, the current building isn't feasible anymore.

Members of the Fire Department have struggled with lack of productive space, three floor levels (which contributes to the building not being ADA compliant), a settling and significantly cracking foundation, minimal parking for a constantly expanding department, a location that is not centralized within the town, no quality grounds for future expansion, among other details.

Since working in conjunction with the architect firm, the conclusion is that the current Fire Station would need to be fully demolished and rebuilt, which long term, would be much more costly than obtaining the current proposed property of 59 Plain Road. The current building that is there can be renovated at a much lower cost than building new and there have been multiple site visits, confirming that the Plain Road property is ideal for future expansion of emergency services.

The intersection of Plain Road and Route 119 have also been considered in the feasibility study. It's agreed that it would need work done to be safer and more appropriate for fire apparatus, that will be using it more frequently. This will also benefit all residents of Hinsdale, as well as anyone in the future that may use that intersection.

With these factors in mind, everyone on the Building Committee is a taxpayer, and we've had nothing but the best interest for the taxpayers in mind. It's a conversation that's been had many times over. The Selectboard, Town Administrator, and Building Committee have been working very diligently to find the funding for this project, without the tax rate going up. We feel as though spending \$25,000 on the current feasibility study has been greatly beneficial to putting this project on the right track. If this property is obtained by the town, we will continue to spend our time finding as much grant funding and donation money as possible before presenting anything in regards to proceeding with the new Fire Station. Many of the Building Committee members are current members of the Fire Department and put a significant amount of time to helping Hinsdale. They are on call 24/7 and trusted by this Community, any time of day or night for emergencies and we hope you will trust us to proceed with the purchase of this property.

We will hold an open house for the taxpayers to view our current building as it sits, before the proposed Special Town Meeting (date will be posted soon).