

Middlefield Fire House Building Committee
405 Main Street Middlefield CT 06455

June 7, 2023

Attendance: A=Absent X=Present

Members

Others Present

X	Bruce Villwock	X	Pete Tyc
X	Paul Pizzo	X	Bob Yamartino, First Selectman
A	Alice Malcolm	X	Mike Skelps, Board of Finance
X	Ryan Colwell	X	David Lowry, Board of Finance
X	Kevin Boyle	X	Jim Irish, Board of Selectmen
A	Howard Weissberg		
X	Steven Tyc		

Call to order

Paul Pizzo, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Approve Agenda

Bruce Villwock made a motion, second by Kevin Boyle, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

- a. May 17, 2023 Meeting

Steven Tyc made a motion, second by Ryan Colwell, to approve the May 17, 2023 minutes. Motion Carried.

Discussion of options after the BOS and BOF presentation

Paul Pizzo discussed the next steps are finding the money necessary for the new building. Senator Blumenthal was present last week, Paul spoke to Dustin Harrison, Dustin was to call back by this meeting, but he did not. Dustin was going to call Washington and see what was available to help them. Chief Pete Tyc did some research and spoke to their grant person, he stated there wasn't too much

out there for brick-and-mortar projects other than direct congressional funding. USDA has a few options that Pete seems to think they may qualify for. They discussed that Middlefield is a suburb of a city, but not considered rural, as they abut Meriden. First Selectman Bob Yamartino wants to get further clarification if they are eligible for this USDA funding. He would like to go directly to Rosa DeLauro and the two Senators and express their need for their help in getting them qualified. Pete also spoke with a company that assists departments and towns with grants and funding; the company is currently working with West Haven, Middletown, West Hartford, and a few more towns. They will give the FBC a few hours of free time to start, and then give them some suggestions and what they thought would be the best way to move forward. When Pete spoke with the company explaining their situation, they said that they are doing something very similar for West Haven and Middletown. He further explained that there are still a few federal grants and bills still available addressing problems like theirs. Senator Blumenthal was not aware of these when Pete spoke with him. He further discussed other programs and grants, their amounts and their requirements. Pete will reach out to the legislators in July and come up with a plan to meet with them, as it sounded like they were interested in supporting the FBC. Bob Yamartino suggested they set up a reception, to include the speaker of the house, governor and lieutenant governor, as he wants them to see what they have and explain their problem and have their help them in finding the solution to fund the renovation. Paul then spoke about the plan after the last meeting was to create a document/packet to submit to everyone; he crafted an initial introduction letter and sent it to the signatories as a starting point. Included will also be what Steven created, and the plans from KBA; it will total about a dozen pages to send out to Senator Blumenthal, Rosa DeLauro, the governor, lieutenant governor, and others and maybe include the invitation to the reception they will host. They will have to then follow up with them a few days later to make sure they are available for a Wednesday evening. It was discussed whether it should be an invite event only versus also having it open to the public and the press. The FBC decided having it more on a smaller scale and set up as a business meeting to converse about what they need to do to get help for funding and the best direction to take would be the prime option. It was decided that they would also make an appointment to go see the lieutenant governor for help in guiding them with a strategy for the FBC to go in. The FBC, BOS and BOF then went through and discussed in detail the document Steven Tyc created; they had some comments and suggestions regarding editing some of the information that was included. They also reviewed and talked about the conceptual design options from KBA that would be included and discussed revisions that could be made. Steven would reach out to Scott at KBA to discuss the alterations. Paul thought he would bring the packet with him when he meets with Susan Bysiewicz, and explain to her it is what they plan on distributing to people and ask her thoughts on what else may need to be included. As chairman of the committee, Paul would call to make an appointment with her on Monday and also ask if they can have the first selectman join the meeting. They will explain the meeting is for them to have a preliminary discussion to plan to get elected officials together with them to go over the packet and ask her what is the best way to do so.

Schedule Meetings for next steps

It was decided that going forward the meetings would be set up as needed.

Adjourn

Bruce Villwock made a motion to adjourn at 7:58pm, second by Ryan Colwell. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amity French-Wilson
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