



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 22-21
COUNCIL MTG OF: February 15, 2022
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: To receive authorization from the Town Council to conduct a technical review on the Rockingham Road site for a possible safety facility.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to receive authorization to expend \$10,000 from the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for Buildings and Ground on a technical review to determine the feasibility to site a public safety asset on the Alexander-Carr property on Rockingham Road.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

See comments within this report.

BACKGROUND

The Town Council Chair on April 6, 2021, appointed Councilors Foote, Bourdon and Spencer to formulate a subcommittee with staff to evaluate the condition of the Town's public safety facilities and report back to the Council. The Committee made a presentation to the Council on June 15, 2021, which outlined the conditions, concerns and opportunities to enhance public safety facilities and responses to the community. The challenges and opportunities were seen as (in no order):

- A. Enhance Fire and EMS Response to Southwest Derry
- B. Construct a public safety facility to address deficiencies in both police headquarters and central fire station.
- C. Construction separate headquarters for both police and fire.
- D. Construct a new fire substation in SW Derry should a new central fire or public safety facility not be situated in that area.

After the presentation the Council determined that more precise information on a building program was needed and authorized staff to proceed to secure technical assistance. Fire and Police leadership solicited a RFQ from experienced designers and architectures in the field, with the Town Administrator ultimately signing an agreement with Mitchell Associates from New York state to conduct this analysis. Although Mitchell's primary experience has been with fire and public safety facilities, the team included an architect formerly with Kaestle-Boos, a Connecticut design firm with extensive experience in police facility work, including the Londonderry Police Department.

The Town Council reviewed the report and directed that technical review work be completed on the town-owned Rockingham Road site.

DISCUSSION

The Town Council determined at its February 1 meeting that staff should further investigate the potential use of a piece of the Alexander-Carr Park on Rockingham Road for a fire or police building. The Council directed that work take place to determine whether a facility (public safety, fire HQ, or fire substation) can be located on the parcel.

Should the Council approve Resolution #2022-012, \$10,000 will be transferred from the EMT-B&G, as staff will proceed along two separate tracts:

- 1) Engage the services of an architectural/survey firm to review the land and lay out the location of a public safety facility, fire headquarters or fire substation on this property.
- 2) Legal would:
 - a) Engage with the Charitable Trust Division at the Attorney General's Office to confirm that the land may be used for a fire station – the Town may have to compensate the Alexander-Carr Trust for the fair market value of the land ultimately used; and
 - b) Should the design professional determine that additional land is needed, legal counsel would file a Petition of Cy Pres with the Court to “unencumber” additional land from the Trust. It should be noted that this area under consideration is on the “back side” away from the land at the Park which is used for the sliding hill, skate board park, lodge, etc. and should have no impact on park operations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There currently is a sufficient balance in the EMT-B&G to fund this work and not impact any of the programmed improvements for other town buildings and facilities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND MOTION BY COUNCIL

Please see Resolution #2022-012.