

Received 10/16/2023  
9:00 am  
Tonya Hogan, TC

**Middlefield Fire House Building Committee**  
**405 Main Street Middlefield CT 06455**  
October 4, 2023

Attendance: A=Absent X=Present

Members

Others Present

| Members                 | Others Present                            |
|-------------------------|---|
| X Bruce Villwock (zoom) | X Pete Tyc (zoom)                         |
| A Paul Pizzo            | X Gene Torone, SLAM Construction Services |
| X Alice Malcolm         | X Carol Bufithis, Third Selectwoman       |
| X Ryan Colwell          |   |
| X Kevin Boyle           |   |
| A Howard Weissberg      |   |
| X Steven Tyc            |   |
|                         |   |

**Call to order**

Kevin Boyle, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Approve Agenda**

Ryan Colwell made a motion, second by Steven Tyc, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment**

Carol Bufithis spoke, as a selectwoman, she is in awe of everything the FBC has done and is 100% supportive of the process they are involved in. She is campaigning and running in November, and the number one thing that people want to discuss with her is the Firehouse. They discuss the current FBC project, and they public ask her, "Why don't we know anything?" People have not heard from the FBC in the Town Times, and she thinks Steven Tyc is a great writer, and that she wanted to say to please put something in the Town Times, even the unknown, but that people want to be involved, and if they are not, they think the worst. She felt they should communicate where they are at right now. It was stated by the FBC that they have tried to reach out to the Town Times and it has been difficult when the Town Times haven't responded back to the FBC. Carol suggested that an article gets written by the FBC and submitted to the Town Times, even a mailing out to the town or something posted on the Facebook page. The FBC stated there was information posted on the Facebook page, on the town website and the fire company website. They reported there were not any responses.

There was also comment from the FBC about the Town Meeting the previous Thursday, and the First Selectman stated there would be a design build option. There has not been a decision or vote made by the FBC regarding that, as of yet.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### a. September 6, 2023 Meeting

Alice Malcolm made a motion, second by Kevin Boyle, to approve the September 6, 2023 minutes. Motion Carried.

### **Discussion of options with the Committee for Design Build with discussion with Design builder for explanations**

Paul had asked Gene Torone to educate the committee on Design Build. Gene spoke with the FBC in great detail about what Design Build is, why it should be considered, the mechanics of it, and based on their structure, what they should and shouldn't do. He gave some background information on SLAM Construction and the design build portion of it overall as well. There was Q and A throughout this time between the FBC and Gene.

After Gene's lengthy and detailed presentation, the FBC discussed their feelings on Design Build. It was stated Design Builds cost savings and timing make it a more attractive avenue to pursue. Design Build are much more in tune of staying on budget and designing to budget. It was felt they need to do their homework and learn a little more about it overall. They could send it out to other Design Builders to get their input.

### **Review the ongoing meetings with funding sources**

Steven Tyc stated that he and Paul had a meeting with a representative from Senator Blumenthal's office last week regarding funding opportunities at a federal level. There isn't anything that they could guarantee until maybe first or second quarter. They stated a shovel ready project would be viewed more favorably. They gave them the documents and presentation/packet that they had, but they are just trying to get into the first round of appropriations. It sounded hopeful but she could not commit to anything, the representative would pass it along to Senator Murphy's office. Paul was going to try and set up a meeting with them as well.

### **Review of Payables this month**

Invoice #01-54-8575 for the month of September 2023 from Amity Wilson for the FBC administrative services was submitted for \$122.50.

Ryan Colwell made a motion, second by Steven Tyc, to approve the September 2023 payment for \$122.50 to Amity Wilson for FBC administrative services. Motion Carried.

### **Additional Project Information**

Bruce Villwock spoke with Environmental Historical Preservation Group (EHP) and they said if they would want to use the property from the church for parking, they would need a historical survey done

of that property. Bruce told them they did not plan on using that property. The EHP stated they wanted a letter via email that the FBC would not be using the property. The First Selectman said they are to stay away from that piece of property. The FBC stated they would not be using that piece of property. It had already been predetermined. It was an error on the designer's part that it was included, and should be disregarded. Bruce will email Paul and let him know he will need to inform the EHP of that.

**Adjourn**

Steven Tyc made a motion to adjourn at 8:39pm, second by Ryan Colwell. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amity French-Wilson*

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