

From: Farley Baker <fbaker@levien-richassociates.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 2:40 PM

To: Mayor; Steve Pappalardo

Subject: Popham Road Firehouse

Good Afternoon Gentlemen,

I am a member of Scarsdale Volunteer Fire Company 1. However, I'm not writing as a representative of the Company, but rather as a Village resident, a volunteer in other Village matters, and as an architect.

The purpose of the Fire Department is to protect the lives, property, and environment of the residents in which it serves. Is there a higher purpose in the Village? However, unlike other important public facilities (the library and the schools come to mind), the needs of the firehouses don't illicit the same public passion. Why is that? The public undoubtedly understands the importance of the Fire Department. Maybe, unlike the library or schools, the service of the Fire Department doesn't require that the public visit their facilities - instead, the Fire Department comes to them - for emergency situations, at any time, and in any conditions.

One of those facilities, the Popham Road Firehouse, is the closest to the most densely populated area of Scarsdale, and it is also the closest to the downtown district. It is an old building - obsolete in both its ability to appropriately house firefighting equipment and personnel, and also in many of its building components and systems.

What started a number of years ago as a limited scope project to ensure the structural integrity of the access drive into the firehouse, has expanded to address space and facility needs. This is a great idea and one that should be pursued with as much commitment as any facility project in the Village.

I won't profess to be familiar with contemporary firehouse design - that's what architectural firms who specialize / have experience in firehouse design are for. Neither am I fully aware of the specific scope of work planned for the Popham House Firehouse. However, from what I understand from attending Fire Company meetings, is that there remains a concern that the proposed current scope of the project will not fully meet the fire service space needs or fully rehabilitate this approximately 100 year old building. Please, do this project right - don't put a band aid on a critical life-safety facility.

What does this mean? The Trustees should ask:

1. Does the current scope meet fire service space and equipment needs for a contemporary facility? Did the Village retainage an architectural firm that specializes in firehouse design? Why is this important? Because these firms have knowledge about fire service spaces, equipment, and systems that goes beyond what even end-users do. They use this knowledge when working with a department's representatives to both illicit needs and to educate users about possible solutions based on what is being done in the industry, and they can present the pros and cons of various options.
2. Does the current scope fully address the building's infrastructure needs - things like the masonry walls, insulation, roofs / gutters, windows, doors, and mechanical / electrical / plumbing, and life-safety systems? Or, does it defer replacement of some obsolete or

borderline systems - either because they just weren't considered or were value-engineered out?

If the answers to the opening questions posed above, are "yes", then vote to proceed with the current plan. If "no" to either or both, then please stop and reevaluate. I realize that considerable time and expense has already been incurred, but this facility is important, and having it done "right" is just as important.

Thank you for reading this email, and for your service to the Village. Members of Fire Company are planning on attending tonight's BOT meeting. I'd like to be there also except that this evening is the start of a course at the County's Fire Training Center in Valhalla.

Please forward this email to the full BOT so that they can read it before this evening's meeting.

Regards,

Farley Baker