

**BUILDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES MARCH 12, 2012
APPROVED**

Present: Jack Petropoulos, Chairman; Jeremy Januskiewicz, Vice Chairman; Mike Bouchard, Clerk; Halsey Platt; Michael Bouchard; Susan Daly, Ex-Officio; Chief Joe Bosselait, Ex-Officio,

Absent: Val Prest

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Petropoulos called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

MINUTES

Mr. Platt moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 5, 2012, as amended. Ms. Daley seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

RESPONSE TIME

Chief Joe clarified what it meant to be a combination department. The combination is a call and full time department. Ms. Daly distributed a multi page document titled *Overview of Groton Fire*. Ms. Daly stated that Groton was the largest town in Middlesex County and gave a brief history of the Fire and EMS department. Fire/EMS is now one department with full time personnel, as well as call members who are cross trained in fire and EMS. All call members are required to keep up with training. Ms. Daly stated that call membership has declined over the years and more volunteers are needed. Ms. Daly stated that with a combination department call times vary from weekdays, week nights and weekends. Ms. Daly added that calls are up and call members are down. During the day is the busiest time and most call members are not available.

Ms. Daly reviewed the personnel and stated that ten years ago Groton had 40 call members. Now there are 25 call members. Mr. Petropoulos stated that the department is doing a great job with what they have but it looked like they were not hitting standards. Ms. Daly stated that Town Meeting will be voting on an additional full time firefighter, which will help on weekends.

Ms. Daly reviewed current stations and included their contents and apparatus. Ms. Daly continued with Operations for Weekdays, Nights and Weekends. Ms. Daly stressed the need to have EMS and Fire in one location. Mr. Petropoulos did not understand the explanation for one location verses two that they have currently. Discussion ensued as to why one location for both EMS and Fire was needed. Ms. Daly stated that response time only improves with both in one location, plus a safety factor for people going out in an engine. Ms. Daly stated having three stations was easier. Mr. Petropoulos thought that the committee should give a story to illustrator to residents why one location makes sense. Mr. Januskiewicz was concerned with the illustration idea and stated that it could confuse more people. Mr. Cunningham stated that there is also an issue with the police department and their need for more space in the public safety building. Mr. Petropoulos stated that a clear and concise response was needed when someone asks why one location.

There was discussion regarding response time and how it should be presented to residents. Ms. Daly stated that 100% of responses occur from center fire station. Ms. Daly referred the group to a map that plots out all the call history for Groton. Committee members studied the map and saw where the areas in town had high levels of call volume. Ms. Daly stressed that a new fire station would help response time. Mr. Platt suggested making the map less polarizing and giving percentages of 4 minute response times affect on the general subject. Mr. Petropoulos agreed that giving percentages was the better way to convey response time data.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bouchard moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Mr. Januskiewicz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____

Mike Bouchard, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 3-19-12