



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Fire Station 1/Fire Station 2
44 Milford Street

Tour Summary

The Finance Committee was invited to an Open House at Medway Fire Station 1 located at 44 Milford Street. The Select Board, Capital Improvement Planning Committee and School Committee were also invited. Those present included:

Finance Committee: Brian Cowan, Chair; Ellen Hillery, Clerk; Jim Sullivan.

Municipal Staff: Michael Boynton, Town Manager.

Fire Department: Jeffrey Lynch, Fire Chief; Michael Fasolino, Deputy Fire Chief; Craig Vinton, Deputy Fire Chief.

Select Board: Glenn Trindade, Chair; Frank Rossi, Vice Chair; Todd Alessandri, Clerk; Dennis Crowley; Maryjane White.

Facility Review Committee: Timothy Harris; Larry Muench; Glenn Trindade (Select Board Representative); Cynthia Sullivan (School Committee Representative); Brian Cowan (Finance Committee Representative).

School Committee: Cynthia Sullivan, Chairperson; Kailene Simon.

Others: Susan Westcott Alessandri.

At 7:00 PM Town Manager Boynton briefly reviewed the history of Fire Station 1. It was completed in 1990 as something of a landmark facility compared to what was being used in the community. At that time, it was staffed with on-call firefighters; there are now 24 full-time firefighters and full-time staff. Of the EMTs on staff, five are female. This station is not equidistant to all corners of the community as it was not intended to serve all areas. It was noted that Fire Station #2 is used primarily for storage, likely due to the building not large enough to accommodate the current engines. Fire Department needs have outgrown available facilities.

Tour participants were encouraged to ask questions as they moved through the building.

Fire Chief Lynch briefly reviewed some of the current challenges and/or limitations the staff faces as follows:

- Ambulance service previously operated by Medway Police Department
- Medway Fire Department now provides services and houses ambulances
- EMTs on staff now provide ALS (Advanced Life Support) service via ambulances owned by the Town
- Six pieces of fire equipment or vehicles occupy space designed for fewer
- Engines are larger now, presenting safety concerns getting in and out of the bay doors
- No capability to house/maintain electric vehicles, i.e., ambulances, engines and SUVs
- Training room is now multi-purpose which limits its intended use for training
- No space to meet with developers or others for confidential conversations
- Station was not built with sleeping quarters which were later fashioned out of storage space
- No lockers for staff
- Supplies are stored in areas not originally designed as storage areas
- Only one shower in the station
- No decontamination area for staff

Directing the tour group up to the second floor of the station, Chief Lynch pointed out the sleeping quarters, medical supply room, kitchen and staff area, and training room. The kitchen was built out of storage area with funds provided by a grant.

Down in the engine bay, Chief Lynch pointed out how all available space is being used, noting the following:

- It can be difficult to move between the engines
- Engines were smaller when the station was built
- Engines awaiting repair have to be parked at the DPW lot so they are not in the way
- New engines cost approximately \$1.1 million and take up to two years to arrive
- The station receives over 3,000 calls a year
- On most of the calls, the engines have to turn left onto Main Street which is not always safe.

Brief discussion followed on the future of the station, growing needs of the community, how to pay for improvements, expansion or new station, overall safety of municipal buildings and anticipating what may be required as residential and commercial development continues.

The tour concluded at 8:10 PM. It was agreed to schedule a tour of Fire Station 2 for another time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary – Finance Committee*