



TOWN OF BOW

Office of the Town Manager

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January 24, 2014

John Southwell, Fire Investigator
Department of Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305

Re: Bow Fire Station/Community Building Status Report

Dear Mr. Southwell:

I am writing to report on the status of the Town's efforts to comply with the requirements detailed in Fire Investigator Clark's letter of July 24, 2013 relative to the Town of Bow Fire Station/Community Building.

As your Office is aware, the Town hired Robert Cummings, a licensed professional fire protection engineer, to work with the Town to prepare a compliance plan for submittal to your Office. Mr. Cummings developed a plan and a contractor was hired to convert meeting and office space in the Town's Rescue Building into sleeping quarters for the Fire Department. That work has been completed and Town Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Buttrick issued a temporary Certificate of Occupancy allowing the sleeping quarters to be occupied. One exterior exit stairway is currently being upgraded to meet current code.

Mr. Cummings, the H.L. Turner Group and Yeaton Associates, Inc., an electrical engineering firm, are working with the Town on various options to bring the building into full compliance with all codes by the September 15, 2016 deadline. The Board of Selectmen has voted to present two alternatives to the voters at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

The preferred proposal is to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,796,000 for the design, construction and equipping of a new public safety building to house the Fire Department, Emergency Management Department and Police Department. The design for this building is currently at the 70% stage of completion. If this warrant article passes, the design will be completed and the project would be put out to bid in the winter of 2015, Construction would begin in the spring 2015 and the building completed for occupancy in the spring of 2016.

If this warrant article is approved, the Board of Selectmen will be presenting an article appropriating \$50,000 to study options for the community building. The Townspeople may decide to abandon the building, renovate it to bring it into code compliance as a standalone community building, construct a new building, renovate another Town facility, etc. As part of the study, cost estimates will be attached to the option (or options) that are chosen. If funding is required, it will be sought at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

Voters will also be presented with an alternative to constructing a new facility. A warrant article will be considered to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,640,000 for the design and renovation of the existing Fire Station/Community Building to bring it into compliance with all codes. Plans for the renovation will be developed and the project will be put out to bid in the winter of 2015, Construction would begin in the spring 2015 and the building would be completed by spring of 2016.

Sincerely,

David L. Stack
Town Manager