

Agenda
Ad Hoc Fire Station Committee
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Town Hall Pavilion
Town of Farmington, CT
9:00 A.M.

- A. Call to Order.
- B. Minutes.
 - 1) To approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025, meeting.
 - 2) To approve the minutes from the May 16, 2025, meeting.
- C. To review the updated Facilities Study and additional pricing from Silver Petrucelli + Associates (Chris Nardi).
- D. To discuss priorities for additional items identified by the Chiefs.
- E. Adjournment.

CC: Committee Members
Joe Swetcky, Director of Finance & Administration
Maureen Frink, Town Clerk
Devon Aldave (for posting)

MOTION:

Agenda Item B-1

To approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025, meeting.

/Attachment

**Minutes
Ad Hoc Fire Station Committee
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Town Hall Pavilion
3:00 P.M.**

Attendees:

Dave Wlodkowski, Town Council Member
Amy Palumbo, Town Council Member
Tom Fitzgerald, Director of Fire & Rescue Services
Dave Czapinski, Fire Chief – East Farms Volunteer Fire Department
Travis Cromack, Fire Chief – Tunxis Hose Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Grabulis, Fire Chief – Farmington Volunteer Fire Department
Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Kat Krajewski, Assistant Town Manager
Devon Aldave, Clerk of the Committee

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M.

B. Minutes.

1) To approve the minutes from the March 26, 2025, meeting.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Wlodkowski/Palumbo) it was unanimously VOTED: to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2025, meeting.

C. To review the Charge of the Committee.

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager, reviewed the Charge with the Ad Hoc Committee.

D. To review the Revised Cost Summary from Silver Petrucelli + Associates.

Town Manager Blonski explained that Silver Petrucelli + Associates updated the costs from their 2023 Facilities Study. Silver Petrucelli found that the costs for the work recommended in the 2023 study has increased from \$8,064,650 to \$9,681,712 in today's dollars.

Since the last meeting, Silver Petrucelli also met with the Fire Chiefs individually to discuss additional cost considerations and provided cost estimates for these items in the updated cost summary.

The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the cost summary and determined that it would be worthwhile to engage with Farmington's Legislative Delegation to see if there is any possibility for State funding for Fire Station projects.

Town Manager Blonski will reach out to the legislators to schedule a public meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee.

E. Next Steps.

The next steps for the project are pending the outcome of the conversation with the State legislators.

F. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Devon Aldave
Clerk of the Committee

MOTION:

Agenda Item B-2

To approve the minutes from the May 16, 2025, meeting.

/Attachment

Minutes
Ad Hoc Fire Station Committee
Friday, May 16, 2025
Town Hall Council Chambers/ZOOM
10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Mike Demicco, State Representative
Rick Lopes, State Senator
Daniela Luna, Legislative Aide for Senator Derek Slap
Dave Wlodkowski, Town Council Member
Amy Palumbo, Town Council Member
Travis Cromack, Chief – Tunxis Hose Volunteer Fire Department
Dave Czapinski, Chief – East Farms Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Grabulis, Chief – Farmington Volunteer Fire Department
Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Kat Krajewski, Assistant Town Manager
Devon Aldave, Clerk of the Committee

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

B. To discuss State of Connecticut funding for Fire Station Projects with Farmington’s Legislative Delegation.

Dave Wlodkowski and Amy Palumbo reviewed the Ad Hoc Fire Station Committee’s process with Senator Lopes and Representative Demicco.

Mr. Wlodkowski explained that the Town hired an architect to conduct a facilities study in 2023 to provide a cost estimate to get the existing fire stations up to code compliance; this cost estimate totaled \$8,064,650 in 2023 dollars. The Town then re-engaged with the architect last month to provide an updated cost estimate in today’s dollars which totaled \$9,681,712. Mr. Wlodkowski stated that this estimate would only address code and safety compliance concerns and would not address space needs that have been identified by the Fire Chiefs of each Volunteer Department. Chief Cromack reiterated that this work would not address space issues which are present in each firehouse.

As part of the 2025 update, the Ad Hoc Fire Station Committee also requested that the architect include cost estimates for additional space considerations. The cost estimates included pricing at each fire station which would address the space needs identified by the Fire Chiefs. Each item has an associated cost estimate, but some items are “either/or” options. Clarity is also needed regarding whether these estimates include a duplication of efforts from the work identified in the \$9.6 million cost estimate to get the fire stations up to code. The committee estimated that the space needs would total an additional \$18.3 million on the higher end.

Mr. Wlodkowski and Mrs. Palumbo explained that Farmington has a robust

volunteer fire system. At a time when volunteer fire membership is dramatically decreasing throughout the state, upgrades at the firehouses would assist with retaining the existing membership within Town and recruiting new members. Upgrades would also increase response times locally and regionally, as the Fire Departments also respond to emergencies on I-84 and other State Roads.

Mr. Wlodkowski and Mrs. Palumbo asked the members of Farmington's Legislative Delegation if there is any available funding to assist in these fire projects. Senator Lopes and Representative Demicco stated that there are possible funding sources from the State for public safety projects. However, they did caution that funding for these projects may take several years to receive. Senator Lopes and Representative Demicco explained that it has been difficult for the State to commit to funding given anticipated federal funding cuts to programs such as Medicaid and transportation. Senator Lopes recommended that the Town put a proposal together explaining the long-term need for these projects and identifying the cost of the projects as well as the Town's proposed share of the cost.

Liz Gemski, 35 Garden Street, a member of the public stated that there are pots of funds within the bond bill including pots for HVAC and Public Safety. Ms. Gemski stated that the Town's proposal should discuss regional collaboration between the Town of Farmington, other Towns, and the State with respect to emergency responses to I-84 and other State Roads (RT 4 and RT 6). Ms. Gemski also recommended that the Town invite the Governor to tour the existing facilities.

Town Manager Blonski stated that the Town can put together a proposal. The next steps would be to hold a meeting with the Committee and Silver Petrucelli + Associates, the architectural firm that provided the cost estimates, to clarify if there is any duplication of work in the \$9.6 million code/safety compliance cost estimate and the additional space needs estimates. This discussion will also clarify if the Town moved forward with only the code/safety compliance work, if any of that work would need to be torn up/undone to then do the additional space needs work a few years later.

C. Adjournment.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Palumbo/Wlodkowski) it was unanimously VOTED: to adjourn at 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Devon Aldave
Clerk of the Committee

MOTION:

Agenda Item C

To review the updated Facilities Study and additional pricing from Silver Petrucelli + Associates (Chris Nardi).

NOTE:

Chris Nardi of Silver Petrucelli + Associates (SPA) will review the revised cost summary from the 2023 Facilities Study, along with the Additional Cost Considerations requested by the Fire Chiefs. Mr. Nardi will clarify whether any of the additional items would duplicate work already identified in the 2023 study or require previously completed work to be undone if implemented afterward.

MOTION:

Agenda Item D

To discuss priorities for additional items identified by the Chiefs.

NOTE:

The committee will discuss prioritizing items from the additional cost considerations.