

Vermillion Township Satellite Fire Station

Questions & Answers (to be updated as questions are posted)

Note: if you have a question or comment, feel free to send it to Judy Sloan : vre@bevcomm.net

Short summary of the issue: Vermillion Township Fire protection is provided by the Hastings Fire Department. The township Rural Fire Association Representative, Chairman Bob Bohn, has raised concern over the rising cost of fire protection. There is also concern that parts of the township are too far away for adequate fire protection. Because of these issues, the concept of a satellite fire station within Vermillion Township is being explored and will be discussed during the October 6, 2009 meeting.

1. What options did the Board Explore?

option 1:

Keep subcontracting fire service from Hastings. This has the issues of rising cost with no control and the distance for some of the residents.

Note: This also has the advantage that the same fire protection will continue.

option 2:

An inquiry was made about the Hastings Fire Department to installing a satellite fire station in Vermillion Township, but the concept was rejected.

2. Did the fire committee talk to the Hampton Fire Department about a contract?

Yes, this was discussed with Hampton; they would handle the 8 sections bordering Hampton.

3. Does the Hastings Fire Department know about Vermillion Township exploring the concept of their own Fire Station?

Yes, the Rural Fire Association is aware that we are working on this, they have shared this with Hastings.

4. Has the board done a budget projection for the new Fire Hall? Cost analysis..

Yes, the fire committee has done quite a bit of analysis:

General fund = 42,500

Equipment fund = 10,000

Building fund = 25,000

Communication and training = 2,500

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total is approximately \$80,000

5. How much of an increase with the Hastings contract have we seen in the past 20 years?

Requesting figures from the Township Clerk .. check back on this.

6. We were told that the building would cost \$250,000. Was the quote for the building based on today's prices or projected prices?

If the township does not win the stimulus grant, this is the approximate cost. If the township does win the grant, the building will be much more expensive, but our portion of the cost would be less (around \$140,000).

7. Did the board think about building the Fire Hall bigger and renting out space?
That would not be an option at this time.

8. How can volunteer fire fighters respond to a fire if they are working in Eagan? How could they provide rapid response if they are out combining a field when a fire occurs?

Note: No formal response yet on this one .. it is a good question .. I would think that the volunteer fire fighter(s) on duty at that time would have to be within a certain range of the firestation. Could the volunteers afford that kind of restriction?

9. What percentage of township residents are within rapid response time? What is considered an acceptable rapid response time?

10. What major equipment does the Hastings Fire Department have? Is there a list?

11. What does the proposed building look like? Need a picture and list of features.

12. The people in the area of Empire are the furthest away from the Hastings Fire Department; is it possible for them to be permanently assigned to the Hampton Fire Department?

13. How many people from Vermillion Township have expressed an interest in being a volunteer firefighter for the township? Who are they?

14. How many people from Vermillion Township are going through firefighter training? How much does it cost?

15. How much money has been spent pursuing the Vermillion Township Satellite Fire Station?

16. What parcels of land are being considered for the fire station?