

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT  
445 RANDOLPH ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457**

**Board of Fire Commissioners**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Held at the firehouse and available via Zoom - Meeting ID 840 1180 8198**

**Present:** Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath (departed meeting at 7:15 p.m.), Pessina, and Gregorio; Chief Trzaski; Deputy Chief Fischer (via Zoom); staff members; members of the Building Committee and the public.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. PUBLIC SESSION** Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 6:32 p.m.

*Dan Penney, 1100 Chamberlain Hill Road.*

Mr. Penney expressed his concern about the project budget going from \$1,000,000 to \$2,100,000. He suggested the scope of work and priorities be revisited. He said feels it's not promising that value engineering or using other grant funding will cover the increase and the expenses will ultimately be passed on to taxpayers. Mr. Penney mentioned there could be very serious expenses related to "unknowns." He encouraged the commission to do what's in the best interest of the taxpayers and staff and limit the project to addressing urgent needs only. He feels the kitchen, tax office, and conference room are not critical and could be done in-house.

**4. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION** Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 6:37 p.m.

**5. BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE –  
REVIEW OF BIDS AND PROJECT FINANCING**

Commissioner Thazhampallath spoke of the \$2,118,743 project cost and said the increase is due to the prevailing wage requirements and inflation. Milestone feels that there are areas which can be reduced, especially in the \$353,684 HVAC bid and masonry work. Commissioner Thazhampallath indicated that "slight trimming" will not bring the cost of the project down enough, and postponing the project would only cause the costs to escalate.

Chief Trzaski gave an overview of the funds received from Municipal Grants-in Aid grant for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 and PILOT funds which might be available, but he advised that a portion of the funds have already been allocated towards other capital projects and operating expenses.

Bond financing was discussed; however, obtaining a legal opinion on compliance with Section 3 of the South Fire District Charter is in order.

**MOTION** to request that the chair get a legal opinion on the bond option by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION** to suspend the rules to allow members of the Building Committee to speak by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Monarca asked if would be more cost effective to hire a general contractor. This is difficult to predict due to today's market.

**MOTION** to return to regular session by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Alyse McEwen*

Alyse McEwen  
Recording Secretary

**The recording of this meeting is available upon request, according to Connecticut Freedom of Information Act requirements.**

**ACCEPTED 5/13/24**