

**FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**1ST FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

| <u>Committee Members</u>    |   | <u>Attendance – January / December 2018</u> |               |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------|
|                             |   | <b>Present</b>                              | <b>Absent</b> |
| Thornie Jarrett, Chair      | P | 3   | 0             |
| Douglas Meade, Vice Chair   | P | 2   | 1             |
| Mark Booth                  | P | 2   | 1             |
| Raymond Dettmann            | P | 3   | 0             |
| Adam Fortner                | A | 0   | 3             |
| Patrick McTigue (arr. 6:10) | P | 3   | 0             |
| Frederick Nesbitt           | P | 3   | 0             |
| Frank Snedaker              | A | 2   | 1             |
| Charles Tatelbaum           | A | 2   | 1             |

**Staff**

Khant Myat, Project Manager II  
Chantal Botting, Deputy Fire Chief  
Lian Chan, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Jarrett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

• **Roll Call**

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

• **March 22, 2018**

**Motion** made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Dettmann, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**3. Staff Liaison Report**

• **Project Status – RS 8, FS 13, FS 54**

**Fire Station #8:** Mr. Myat reported that the bid package for Fire Station (FS) 8 was advertised on May 7, 2018 and a pre-bid meeting was scheduled for May 18. The bids will be opened on June 7, 2018. Staff will award the project at the July 10, 2018 City Commission meeting.

**Fire Station #13:** The consultant has begun site investigation and data gathering, and a meeting with the Fire Department was scheduled for May 18 to define space requirements and ocean rescue operations. Another meeting will be held with the City Manager and City Staff within the next two weeks to review site layout options and complete the application to the state.

Chair Jarrett requested additional information from the May 18 meeting. Deputy Chief Botting advised that she was present at this meeting, along with Committee Liaison Marlon Lobban and the consultant. Conceptual design is underway to determine how much land is needed for this project so a site plan can be presented to the state. Two plans including ocean rescue and two plans without ocean rescue will be presented.

Deputy Chief Botting continued that she did not know the state entity with whom the Department is communicating on this issue. One site plan design located just west of the existing station will be presented as one option. Another design will remove the station's gym and training room from the plan while retaining its bays. A third option would demolish the existing station to the new facility. The Department is not in favor of this third option.

Chair Jarrett asked if there are plans for FS 13 to be a "drive-through" station. Deputy Chief Botting replied that this is a possibility, noting that all conceptual models include a three-bay design. She has communicated the station's needs to the consultant, which include the following:

- 26 parking spaces to accommodate crew change
- 20 lifeguard stands for ocean rescue
- 25 lifeguards and 5 supervisors

The possibility of a parking garage has been discussed for FS 13, as has the option of storage space for ocean rescue equipment. Substantially more property will be necessary if ocean rescue is accommodated at the facility. The station will also require basic needs such as bunk rooms, a kitchen, and a community room. An access road to the water will be connected to an existing path. Two fire boats will be docked at the site. Deputy Chief Botting estimated that the new station would be similar in size to FS 47.

Mr. McTigue arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Deputy Chief Botting continued that she was not aware of the timeline in which the conceptual design would be submitted. She requested that Mr. Myat recommend that the Committee review the plans before they are submitted to the state.

**Fire Station 54:** Mr. Myat stated that construction is roughly 59% complete. Site work is 65% complete and is anticipated to be finished by June 6, 2018. Revised plans for the new perimeter fence were submitted to City Building Services on May 11.

**EMS Substation:** Mr. Myat continued that Engineering and Fire Department Staff met with the consultant on April 27 to define the scope of services for this facility, including programming of space and site layout requirements for a potential EMS substation at FS 8. Staff has provided the consultant with comments so they can provide a final draft for review and approval by May 18.

Deputy Chief Botting added that the needs for this Fire Station and substation were addressed at the April 27, 2018 meeting. She recommended a two-bay station, which would require six bunk rooms. Because the EMS substation was not initially part of the Fire Bond, she did not recommend the inclusion of a community room. The EMS substation cannot be added to any facility for which construction has already been approved. If it cannot be added to an existing facility, the Department will need to seek land for the substation north of the New River. The City Manager has recommended a one-bay station.

The Committee members discussed the construction schedule further, with Deputy Chief Botting clarifying that FS 8 will not be affected by the cancellation of the Wave streetcar project. The construction schedule of FS 4 has been affected by recent rains.

Mr. McTigue asked if a cost analysis of one versus two bays has been prepared. Deputy Chief Botting advised that the consultant has not yet determined the cost analysis of building construction and material. While it is possible to construct smaller Fire Stations, they are not preferable and it is more difficult to house the resources needed to serve an area. Vice Chair Meade recalled that the original FS 4 was a one-bay station, and was too small to accommodate newer fire engines within only a few years of its construction.

Mr. Dettmann asked if the City is considering entering into a public-private partnership to construct the EMS substation. Deputy Chief Botting replied that the City may be considering this as a money-saving possibility, as there are not sufficient funds to purchase land not already owned by the City. She reiterated that data suggests the best location for the Substation would be north of the New River with the placement of FS 8.

Deputy Chief Botting suggested reaching out to the developers of a property on South Federal Highway to propose a partnership. Chair Jarrett pointed out, however, that developers are not typically positive regarding the addition of a Fire Station or substation to a property, as guests or tenants do not want to hear fire trucks or other emergency vehicles leave at all hours. He felt a better way to proceed is to waive impact fees for developers if they allow the inclusion of a Fire Station.

Chair Jarrett recalled that the Committee had cautioned the City Commission against making this decision during a joint workshop. The Chair suggested using the \$3 million planned for the substation to purchase an appropriate piece of land, pointing out that the original recommendation for the location of the Substation was the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Federal Highway. During the last several years, three of the four corners at this location have been sold more than once. He felt the City had been negligent in not purchasing one of these properties with the funds available.

Chair Jarrett stated that he had recommended the City Commission direct the Fire Department itself to find a suitable piece of property for a station, which would be preferable than concentrating multiple stations together in an area where little additional development is anticipated. He expressed concern for the response times from one of these stations to more heavily populated areas. He also noted that previous plans were made with the Wave streetcar in mind, and the abandonment of this project changes the circumstances.

Mr. Booth proposed holding another joint meeting or workshop between the Committee and the City Commission to discuss location. Chair Jarrett asserted that the current situation is not best for Fort Lauderdale residents, who may be at risk due to longer response times to fires or medical emergencies. Mr. Dettmann spoke again in favor of a public-private partnership for the EMS substation, as it may be difficult for the City to purchase more land. He added that another issue affecting response times is the condition of roads, and recommended the use of impact fees to address this need.

The Committee members discussed the resources available, with Deputy Chief Botting pointing out that confining resources to a single engine or bay is a disservice to the communities being served. There was also discussion of the resources available at a Fire Station in comparison to the resources available at an EMS substation. Chair Jarrett also noted that certain neighborhoods would be forced to rely on fire services from a greater distance away, which would place them at a disadvantage. He stated that the EMS substation was unlikely to be built, because the \$3 million set aside for it would be sufficient only to buy the property. He felt the best solution would be to construct FS 8 on the subject property once it has been purchased.

Chair Jarrett continued that by the time a workshop between the Committee and the City Commission could be scheduled, a contract for the construction of FS 8 would have already been signed. He recommended sending a communication to the City Commission, followed by a request for a workshop.

Mr. Dettmann asked if response times in neighborhoods such as Rio Vista would be improved if FS 8 is built on the location currently proposed. Deputy Chief Botting confirmed that this would be the case if the EMS substation is also built north of the New River. Chair Jarrett reiterated that if FS 8 is constructed in the best location, there would be no need for the construction of an EMS substation.

Mr. Dettmann advised that he would go along with the Committee's consensus regarding the possibility of another joint workshop with the City Commission. Mr. Nesbitt stated, however, that he did not feel another workshop would be productive, and pointed out that the Fire Department feels the construction of a substation would be an effective compromise. Mr. Meade observed that it could be beneficial to meet with the City Commission and present the alternatives the Committee has discussed.

Mr. Dettmann asked if Deputy Chief Botting was comfortable with the response times associated with the existing plans. Deputy Chief Botting replied that the projected response times would be an improvement. She added that if FS 8 is constructed at its proposed location, an EMS substation north of the New River makes sense; however, if FS 8 is not built where it is proposed, there would be no reason to place a substation north of the river, as there would be no service to supplement. She concluded that she would prefer FS 8 to be closer to Federal Highway and further north than the proposed location, with the substation further north as well.

#### **4. Communication to the City Commission**

**Motion** made by Mr. Booth to communicate with the City Commission [that it is] dissatisfied with where Station 8 is currently being scheduled to be built, and would like to revisit it. The **motion** died for lack of second.

Mr. Nesbitt advised that the Committee members may still reach out to their respective City Commissioners and ensure that they are aware of the issues with the proposed locations. He did not wish to delay the construction of FS 8 for another number of years. Chair Jarrett noted that the only reason for placing FS 8 at the proposed site was the implementation of the Wave, which is no longer a consideration. Mr. McTigue suggested urging the City to use the \$3 million for the proposed EMS substation to purchase better land.

#### **5. Adjournment – Next regular meeting: June 28, 2018**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]



## Memorandum

**To:** Fire-Rescue Bond Committee  
**From:** Marlon Lobban, Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**Re:** Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee Update

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the remaining three (3) fire station and one (1) EMS substation projects.

### **Fire Station #8**

Bid Package 12139-983 was advertised on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A pre bid meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> and bid opening will occur on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff intends to award the project during the July 10<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

### **Fire Station #13**

Consultant ACAI has begun site investigation and data gathering. Meeting with Fire Department to define space requirements and ocean rescue operations is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. A meeting with City Staff and the City Manager's Office will be set in the next two weeks to refine site layout option to include with application for the state.

### **Fire Station #54**

Construction is approximately 59% complete. Roofing, framing, plumbing, and electrical conduits for both floors are complete. Site work is 65% complete and anticipated to be completed by June 6, 2018. Revised plans for a new perimeter fence was submitted to City Building Services for permit on 5/11/2018. Over the next two weeks, construction activities will consist of completing the site work and completing window installations.

### **EMS Substation**

Engineering and Fire Department staff met with ACAI Consultants on April 27<sup>th</sup> and defined the scope of services for a task order to provide space programming and site layout requirements for a potential EMS substation to Fire Station #8. Staff has reviewed the draft task order and provided ACAI with comments to draft a final task order for review and approval by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

cc: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager  
Christopher Lagerbloom, Assistant City Manager  
Stanley D. Hawthorne, Assistant City Manager  
Robert F. Hoecherl, Fire Chief  
Chantal Botting, Deputy Fire Chief  
Paul Berg, ICMA-CM, Public Works Director  
Khant Myat, PE, Project Manager II





Dane Esdelle, PE, Project Manager II  
Laura Reece, Budget Manager  
Hal Barnes, Neighbor Services Manager  
Jeff Modarelli, City Clerk

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