



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, December 2, 2021
6:00 P.M.

1/2021 through 12/2021
Cumulative Attendance

Board Member	Attendance	Present	Absent
Douglas Meade, Chair	P	7	1
Frank Snedaker, Vice Chair	P	8	0
Mark Booth	P	6	1
Raymond Dettmann	A	7	1
Don Larson	P	7	1
Charles Tatelbaum	P	6	2
John Vratsinas	P	6	1

Also Attending

Staff

- Irina Tokar, Senior Project Manager
- Danica Grujicic, PMII
- Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief
- Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer
- Betty Crews, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

• Roll Call

Roll was called and quorum was present.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- September 23, 2021**

Motion duly made and seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Liaison Report

Senior Project Manager Irina Tokar presented the Fire Bond Expenditure Report. There was a question at the last meeting regarding the Bond and it was noted that the amount received in revenue was listed on the bottom of Page 2.

Fire Station #8:

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum for Fire Station #8.

Fire Station is complete and operational. There are two pending issues with the warranty/design of the Fire Station. Fire Rescue reported that due to the location of the roof drains directly above the bunk rooms, the noise during rain events is excessive and they reported water hammer noise in water piping. The Consultant recommended to install sound insulation around roof piping to reduce the noise (the additional cost of \$3,756.59). The Consultant inspected the water piping and pointed out a few installation issues that were addressed by the Contractor. However, the water hammer noise is continuing. The Consultant is looking at other solutions.

Chair Meade asked who the Consultant is and if they met with the plumber. He also questioned if the plumber has an idea how to solve the problem.

Ms. Tokar replied the Consultant is CPZ Architects and they specialize in Fire Stations. During the meeting with the plumber, he blamed the designer, and the designer blamed the contractor. She indicated the plumber stated the water meter is undersize, so the Consultant is running calculations as to how much water has been used. It was said that is not the issue; it is the vibration of piping when the toilet is flushed and then there is a boom sound.

Chair Meade asked if that is a venting issue.

Ms. Tokar stated it is supposed to be addressed by plumber. When they did the work, the engineer pointed out that the insulation was not correct, so it is a possibility. Another possibility is that the water hammer itself is deficient. She stated there are two access panels and the contractor provided pictures. This is a hardship because a boom can be heard. There will be additional meetings to see what can be done.

Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, advised that personnel are not using the restroom at night and if they use it, no one is flushing. Sometimes these things come up and there is not a solution. They have been very diligent in working to get this solved and are not letting it go.

Vice Chair Snedaker commented a simple solution is replacement. He asked if they tried to evacuate the system and recharge it. If all the water is removed, it lets the air pockets clear.

Ms. Tokar indicated that a pressure gage was put in the piping, which was monitored for a week, and everything was within the design criteria. She stated she would point out the suggestions.

In response to Vice Chair Snedaker, Ms. Tokar stated it is a flush valve toilet. Vice Chair Snedaker commented that some new flush valve toilets use air pressure to generate the flush to keep it low flow.

The City authorized a traffic signalization agreement, as required with the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), to coordinate the Fire Station signals with the adjacent railway crossing. A pre-construction meeting with the FEC and contractor was conducted on July 28, 2021, to discuss the construction schedule. At this meeting, the contractor pointed out that some additional changes might be necessary due to the connection to the Broward County traffic light control box and size of the existing wire conduits. The consultant confirmed that additional changes are necessary since the existing 1" conduit is too small for the required new wiring. To complete the work, approximately 450 linear feet of 2" conduit will be installed to communicate with the appropriate control box. Staff completed the negotiations for the change order in the amount of an additional \$34,265.63. This change needs to be approved by the Commission prior to proceeding with the traffic signalization scope.

Ms. Tokar reported that negotiations were finished with the contractor and the amount is close to \$35,000. As soon as they have approval, they can complete the process.

Mr. Snedaker asked the status of air conditioning problems within Fire Station #54 and he mentioned humidity issues.

Ms. Tokar replied they are taking a humidity reading twice a day and will review the data. Currently, Fire Station personnel are in a trailer and they are not going to move back into the Fire Station until the conditions are acceptable.

Chair Meade asked if anyone is accountable.

Ms. Tokar advised the system is not dehumidifying the building correctly and noted it could be a design issue.

Mr. Snedaker commented that so far the City has not held anyone accountable.

Ms. Tokar stated they spoke with Legal and reiterated they will see what the data shows and then a decision would be made.

Mr. Snedaker questioned if the reheat is off the compressor gas. If so, there are additional electric costs as well. Ms. Tokar stated it is electric.

Ms. Tokar advised normally a separate unit handles the fresh air. This Fire Station was not designed like that.

Mr. Snedaker commented that every other Fire Station has a separate unit for fresh air. He believes that is where the problem is.

Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, commented having an empty Fire Station is not cheap.

Mr. Snedaker asked how long it would be before the newspaper starts paying attention to this. If the contractor built what was shown we are good. If the architect or engineer did not draw it right, then someone needs to stand up.

Ms. Tokar stated that he is correct. There were many things the engineer identified that had to be taken care of. They are making sure settings are correct and are monitoring it every day. Recommended improvements were made. Another idea was to have a different engineer look at the design and provide a solution if current improvement doesn't work

Fire Station #13:

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum for Fire Station #13.

ACAI Associates, Inc., the City's architectural consultant, submitted the design development drawing for the administrative review as Site Plan Level II on November 9, 2021. (Exhibit II. ACAI is working on addressing the comments received and they are planning to resubmit the revised drawings on December 9, 2021.

The project design is progressing as planned and on schedule. Construction is expected to begin on Fire Station #13 in November 2022.

Vice Chair Snedaker mentioned the second-floor plan, the hallway between the Chief bunkroom and the Officer bunkroom #1 and noted there is dead space. He questioned if there is an exit code issue to get to the window or if the Chief's bunkroom could be pushed to the north to make it larger and to get to the hallway.

Ms. Tokar thought they wanted the window and there needs to be clear space. There are two doors and it seemed like this was the most efficient plan.

Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, explained they wanted functional natural lighting; they asked that natural lighting be provided in hallways and not in bunk rooms. Natural lighting is also health and wellness. Windows are open in the kitchen and there is more natural lighting. The kitchen and dayroom are in the interior of the building. During Covid, people were working 48 hours at a time. After storms, they want their buildings to be operational.

Chair Meade questioned if there have been any changes to the budget.

Ms. Tokar indicated the Consultants did run the numbers yet.

Ms. Tokar stated mentioned the new ordinance in Broward County is more stringent than FEMA for finish floor elevation. Broward County projections are based 2060-2069 map. The Consultant implemented the most stringent requirement.

Vice Chair Snedaker questioned if the piles for the existing Fire Station would have to be pulled or if they would be in the way of the new foundation.

Ms. Tokar did not recall the recommendations, but stated the current elevation is a few feet higher so it shouldn't be an issue.

Temporary Fire Station #13: (This project is funded through other sources)

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum updating for temporary Fire Station #13.

The project for temporary Fire Station #13 is on schedule and it is currently in the permitting phase. The project was awarded to Waypoint Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$1,237,903 at the September 9, 2021 Commission meeting. This project will construct a new North Beach parking lot that will include 92 parking spaces and provide a home for the temporary Fire Station #13 with 11 parking spaces. Much of the construction scope is associated with the development of the new 92-space parking lot, funded with Parking Revenues. Included with the parking lot construction is the relocation of the existing trailer, previously used during the construction of Fire Station #54, to a temporary site within the parking lot. This temporary Fire Station #13 will be used until the new Fire Station #13 is constructed and ready for occupancy.

We had the pre-construction meeting on November 18, 2021 and Notice to Proceed (NTP) was provided to the Contractor to proceed with permitting and engineering shop drawings. The Contractor is checking the fabrication/delivery time on long lead items and will submit the construction schedule for review shortly.

4. Communication to City Commission regarding extending the scope of the Fire Rescue Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee

Chair Meade commented there has been conversation over the years about this Committee doing more than just Bonds and assisting the Fire Department and other Stations in other ways. In speaking with one of the Commissioners, the answer was that the request would need to come through a Communication. If the Committee is interested, they should put together ideas to propose to the Commission. Members can think about this and discuss it at the January meeting.

Mr. Snedaker suggested pulling the original memo that created this Committee to see the language used. If it could be expanded from the memo, it would tie into the history.

Motion duly made and seconded, to put something on the schedule for next meeting working on language for a written recommendation to the Commission that they extend the purview of this Committee beyond the sunset and discuss it at the next meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approved Technology Resolution No. 20-214

Ms. Tokar reviewed new instructions for meetings and noted all quorums must be in-person. She mentioned a few excusable absences were listed.

6. Adjournment – Next regular meeting: January 27, 2022

Chair Meade requested a calendar be provided for next year's meetings. He suggested dates be reviewed for holidays, etc., and noted the November and December meetings could be held in November.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by C. Guifarro, Prototype, Inc.]