

To: Town Manager, Tom Calter, Town Engineer Marc Tisdelle, and Planning Board Members

From: Peter E. Banis, Precinct 2, Town Meeting Representative

Re: 400 Prospect St., Firestation Project

2/22/23

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2023

STOUGHTON

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board members meeting of 2/23/23 for the 400 Prospect St. Firestation Project, should be made aware of the results of the Selectboard meeting of 2/21/23. New Town Manager Tom Calter has analyzed the facts mentioned in previous documents that I have forwarded to all town boards and officials. My documentation started on 1/24/22 and was continued up to the present time. He has scheduled a public "forum type" discussion for citizens and taxpayers of Stoughton. This meeting is scheduled for 3/20/23.

I have attached a copy of that letter from last night for you to review. The documentation of nontransparency and the need for public discussion has always been my goal. The Town Officials and taxpayers are faced with extreme fiscal concerns.

I have reviewed the available minutes on the town website as stated on my letter of 2/21/23. There are 5 bullet points for your review. The meeting dates listed of the Public Safety Building Committee should be of importance to this board. A member of this dissolved committee was the Chair of the Planning Board, Mr. Dan Kelly. It would be of great public interest to hear his thoughts on my letter from Mr. Kelly and possibly Marc Tisdelle at some point. The project and it's concerning variables of politics should NOT burden the taxpayers of Stoughton.

The citizens and taxpayers of Stoughton strongly support the long awaited need for a modern facility. The thought of a little more open discussion, which is going to happen on 3/20/23, may be worth the wait of that meeting. The costs certainly are of great concern but the financial saying of "throwing good money at a bad idea" should be up for consideration.

I give extreme credit to Mr. Calter for bringing communication and accountability to the forefront and the future of Stoughton. Thank you for your consideration and time and effort for the town of Stoughton.

Respectfully yours,



Peter E. Banis, Precinct 2, Town Meeting Representative

To: Tom Calter, Town Manager and Selectboard Members
From: Peter E. Banis, Precinct2, Town Meeting Representative
Re: 400 Prospect St., Firestation Project
2/21/23

I am bringing to the attention of all the involved parties the following facts that have appeared since my documentation starting on 1/24/22. The selection of Town Manger Tom Calter has given the citizens and taxpayers a "new start" in challenges facing Stoughton.

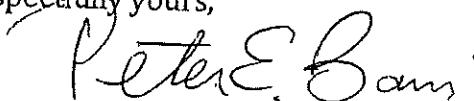
I have attached a copy of my letter that I reviewed in a meeting with Mr. Calter on 2/9/23. I also have attached a copy of his letter from 2/11/23 to the citizens of Stoughton. His challenges in Stoughton appear to be very visible to the citizens with his communication style.

My efforts to get a public meeting in person to get information to the public has been a great challenge. Everything has been Zoom meetings. I have spent hours reviewing the Fire Operations Project on the town website. Here are some of my findings:

1. Zoom video of Financing for the firestation was inaccessible needing a passcode.
2. I watched the Fire Station Article video with chief Carroll of 6 minutes plus and it was informative but how many Town Meeting members saw that video?
3. I reviewed the minutes of the Public Safety Building Committee minutes dated 3/10/21, 2/24/21, 2/10/21, 1/21/21, and 1/7/21. There was much discussion of concerns at the Armory site and one mention of Washington St. BUT never mention of 400 Prospect St. Meeting of 2/10/21 Bob O'Regan said, "Town Meeting reps will want to know all this information" and Joel Wok said, "I think there should be a public meeting"
4. In a meeting in September of 2021, Town Manager Robin Grimm pledged town hall type meetings on this topic and those never happened.
5. During a 16 slide presentation by Dorr and Whittier on 8/3/22 the proposed station #1 was 3 slides one for 850 Park St., 400 Prospect St. and a generic site plan. After that it was only 400 Prospect St. This was all before anything was vetted by Conservation Committee and Planning Board. The Fin Com vote was 2-12-1 against the bundled project.

My documentation of 1/31/23 under Citizens Comments covers issues of concern to all the citizens of Stoughton. We are now in a concerning fiscal situation. My hopes are to have the new leadership of Mr. Calter have open communication in public about this extremely challenging time in Stoughton.

Respectfully yours,



Peter E. Banis, Precinct 2, Town Meeting Representative