

Town of Brattleboro
Police and Fire Facilities Project Questionnaire
January 2016

The Brattleboro Selectboard is seeking public input regarding proposed improvements to the Town's fire stations and police station. The current condition of these facilities is unsafe and prevents the Fire Department and Police Department from being as effective as they can be in serving our community. Information is provided below regarding each of the project's components and the project as a whole. Each informational statement is followed by a question. The final question asks your opinion regarding how the Town should proceed on the overall project. Please answer all the questions and return your completed questionnaire by January 18 either to townmanager@brattleboro.org or to the Town Manager's Office at 230 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301. The results of the survey will be published on the Town's website and the Selectboard will consider the results of the survey during the Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, January 19.

Central Fire Station

1. Current plans to build an addition at Central Fire Station and renovate the existing station are expected to meet the needs of the community and the Fire Department for 20+ years. This work is estimated to cost approximately \$6,188,490 and would yield the following primary improvements:
 - a. Bays big enough for standard fire trucks to fit in the building
 - b. Exhaust systems to keep hazardous fumes out of firefighters' living quarters
 - c. A tower that allows hose to be dried and training to occur on site
 - d. Decontamination facilities
 - e. Unstable and deteriorating walkways and floors repaired
 - f. Handicap accessibility as required by law
 - g. Improved work flow

Do you believe this work should be done at this cost?

Yes ___ No ___

2. Plans for Central Fire Station can be expanded to include an additional story at an added cost of about \$550,000, or to include structural elements at an additional cost of about \$175,000 that would enable construction of an additional story at a later date. Are you in favor of this additional expenditure?

Yes ___ (Additional Story Now ___ Structural Support for Future Additional Story ___)

No ___

3. An alternate plan for Central Fire Station would not build an addition there. Instead, at an estimated cost of approximately \$2,500,000, it would install an exhaust removal system and emergency generator, remediate asbestos, replace the roof, upgrade electric and plumbing, structurally repair the catwalk, make improvements to meet handicap access laws, and build a metal outside garage for large equipment. It is likely that more improvements would be required at Central Fire Station in the coming years. Do you prefer this alternative plan for Central Fire Station?

Yes ___ No ___

West Brattleboro Fire Station

4. Current plans for West Brattleboro Fire Station would replace it with a new building at an estimated cost of approximately \$1,478,730. This would provide truck bays big enough for equipment meeting current standards, safe and healthy living quarters for firefighters, and other operational improvements. Do you believe this work should be done at this cost?
Yes ___ No ___
5. An alternative work plan for West Brattleboro Fire Station is to install an exhaust removal system and an emergency generator, to remediate mold, to replace the roof and windows, and to make improvements to meet handicap access laws, at an estimated cost of approximately \$400,000. However, if this plan is adopted, modern replacement fire trucks that need to be bought in the coming years would not fit in the building. Do you prefer this alternative plan for West Brattleboro Fire Station?
Yes ___ No ___

Police Station

6. The Town has purchased an option to buy the current Brattleboro Reformer building on Black Mountain Road for use as a new Brattleboro Police Station. This building can be purchased and renovated at an estimated total cost of \$4,137,320 and it is expected that no additional significant investment would be required for Police Department facilities during the next 20+ years. This is the least expensive alternative for fully modernizing the Police Department's facilities. It would leave vacant space at the Municipal Center to be leased or otherwise re-used. Are you in favor of relocating the Brattleboro Police Department from the Municipal Center to Black Mountain Road?
Yes ___ No ___
7. If the Police Department remains at the Municipal Center, one alternative is to build a one story addition and to do significant interior renovations to the basement and to the first and second floors at the Municipal Center to improve Police Department headquarters. This work would address operational issues for patrol, detective, management, dispatch, and support personnel at the Brattleboro Police Department, providing for
- a. Safer custody of prisoners through new cellblock and sallyport
 - b. Renovated dispatch facilities
 - c. Improved evidence, equipment, and weapons storage and handling
 - d. Separate changing facilities for men and women police officers
 - e. Safe and private space for citizens to meet with police officers
 - f. Mold and moisture remediation
 - g. Improved workflow and meeting spaces for police divisions and management
- Doing this work at the Municipal Center is estimated to cost about \$5,112,500. It is expected that no additional significant investment would be required for Police Department facilities during the next 20+ years. Do you believe this work should be done at this cost?
Yes ___ No ___

8. An alternate plan that would keep the Police Department at the Municipal Center would replace the dispatch system, remediate mold, build a sallyport and improve access to the current cellblock, provide for separate locker rooms for men and women police officers, improve evidence and equipment storage and handling, address minimum citizen privacy and officer safety improvements, and provide handicap accessibility. This alternative work is estimated to cost about \$2,500,000, but would leave the Police Department with space that is less than optimal for its efficient and safe operation. Additional work would likely be required in less than 20 years. Do you believe this work plan should be adopted?
Yes ___ No ___

Overall Project

9. Completing improvements to the Police and Fire facilities at one time will reduce the long term total cost of the project (due to the combined impacts of construction cost inflation and rising interest rates if the projects are staged or deferred). Phasing the project to complete some work now and some work later will reduce the immediate cost of the project in FY17 and FY18. Do you believe improvements to the police and fire stations should be done together or in phases?
Together ___ In Phases ___

10. A number of alternative plans are identified above for improvements to Brattleboro's emergency services facilities, with different costs. Which do you prefer:

___ Renovate and expand Central Fire Station, replace West Brattleboro Fire Station, and move Police Department to Black Mountain Road at a total cost of approximately \$11,800,000. This alternative would require \$7,760,000 of additional borrowing.*

___ Renovate and expand Central Fire Station, replace West Brattleboro Fire Station, and keep Police Department in Municipal Center with major improvements there at a total cost of approximately \$12,800,000. This alternative would require \$8,760,000 of additional borrowing.*

___ Undertake less costly project that will make minimum improvements to Police and Fire facilities at a total cost of approximately \$5,400,000. This alternative would require \$1,360,000 of additional borrowing.*

___ Some other combination of the alternatives described above (please specify):

* NOTE: In accordance with a 2012 Town Meeting authorization, \$5,000,000 was borrowed in 2013 to provide initial funding for these projects. \$955,327 was spent in 2013-2014 to acquire land adjacent to the Central Fire Station and on design work for both the Police and Fire facilities, so approximately \$4,040,000 of that original bond remains available to spend on whichever alternative is selected.

Optional

11. Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____