

MEMORANDUM



To: Facilities Communications Committee
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: May 2, 2023
Re: **Historical Timeline**

As background information I was asked to provide you with the key dates and milestones of the steps the Town has taken in regards to our Fire and Police needs up to this point. This is not meant to be a full history of each item.

- **1990 Police Station Space Needs Analysis** - Calls for an addition to the existing station at 24 North Amherst Road or a new station of 8,800 SF on Route 101.
- **1990 Master Plan** – Calls for a new central fire station on South River Road with renovations to the existing station at 10 Meetinghouse Road. A third unmanned station at the corner of Joppa Hill Road and Golden Drive was proposed for the future (10 years).
- **1990** – Town acquired land at the corner of South River Road & Hawthorne Drive for a fire station as part of a private development proposal. Later sold to Daniel Webster Animal Hospital and used for a highway widening/turning lane project.
- **1991** – Town Council adds a \$1.5M CIP project for a Route 3 fire station (not funded).
- **1992** – Hilltop Mutual Aid Fire District is formed as a joint effort of Bedford, New Boston, and Amherst and operates out of the station located at the Air Force Tracking Station (now Space Station).
- **1992** – Safety Building Committee formed.
- **1993 Bond Article** – The Safety Complex \$2M warrant article passed.
- **1994** – The current Safety Complex became operational. 24,000 SF of office space and 13,900 SF apparatus bay addition for a total of 38,000 SF.
- **2000 Master Plan** - Fire Chief reissues the need to address calls to South River Road. Consideration is given to a joint daytime substation with Merrimack. The Joppa Hill station is again cited as needed even though the Hilltop station was seeing relatively low calls for service.
- **2004** – Town acquired land in front of Target as part of the private development for a fire substation. (never utilized, determined not suitable)
- **2005 Fire Substation Needs Study** – The Town Manager and Fire Chief complete a report calling for further study of a substation on South River Road.
- **2005 MRI Study** – Calls for a 2-bay fire substation to be built in the South River Road area that will minimize response times to the statistically largest response volume area. OSHA, NFPA, & ISO Standards cited. Calls for Hilltop Station to be staffed with neighboring communities as in the past.
- **2010 Master Plan** – Restates that needs the identified in the 2000 Master Plan and calls for the Fire Substation to be constructed as soon as possible.

- **2011 Infrastructure Bond** – A safety substation on South River Road was included at \$1.5M in the \$13.2M bond. Passed with 69% of the vote. (\$1.2M of the station funds later reallocated)
- **2013 Site Selection Process** – Brickstone Land Use Consultants, Scully Architects & Mitchell Associates hired to recommend a site on South River Road. 25 sites reviewed and 6 viable sites had concepts developed. 5 were recommended.
- **2013** – New Boston agreement renewed, better coverage for west Bedford.
- **2014 Bond Question on the Ballot** – Article 4 sought \$3.8M for purchase of property and construction of a Safety Substation on South River Road. No location was identified. Received 56% of the vote but needed 66.7%.
- **2014 Site Acquired** – The former Napa Auto Parts store was purchased at 4 Sunset Lane for \$885K.
- **2015 Preliminary Design** – Several concepts for 4 Sunset Lane are developed for a Fire Substation by Scully Architects. \$2.2M & \$2.7M options considered, but the Council decides to not put the project forward to the voters and adds staff instead.
- **2015 Safety Complex Space Needs Assessment** – H.L. Turner Group hired to look at options for Police expansion and adding the radio station, Planning and Assessing departments.
- **2017-2018 All Town Facilities Space Needs Plan** – Harriman Associates was hired to review the space needs of all departments and recommend a comprehensive plan. A new 25,000 SF Police Station was recommended at 47 Constitution Drive and the construction of the Fire Substation at 4 Sunset Lane was again recommended.
- **2018-2022** – The Council Facilities Subcommittee reviews numerous sites for combined and standalone Police Stations and Fire Substations. Lease and purchase options are considered for several sites. They and the Council determine that combined site is preferred in the South River Road Corridor.
- **2021 Master Plan** – Restates that needs identified in the earlier Master Plans and calls for the Fire Substation at 4 Sunset Lane or other land on South River Road and a new Police Station at 47 Constitution Drive.
- **2021** - \$2M Capital Reserve Account established for the acquisition of land and the construction of facilities.
- **2022** – Fulcrum Associates is hired as the Construction Management lead with Lavalley Brensinger Architects and VHB Engineers as the design team for a new Police Station combined with a Fire Substation, a remodeled Safety Complex that now also included the Planning Department, and a remodeled Town Office Building.
- **2022** – 4 Sunset Lane is sold for \$1.5M as it is determined not to be large enough for the combined complex. (money added to the Capital Reserve Account in 2023 now at \$3.5M)
- **2023** – Town obtains a P&S for 12 acres of land known as 300 South River Road for \$2.445M with a closing scheduled for May 15, 2023.

* * * * *