

Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Association Board of Trustees

Replies and answers to the Town Survey of 2019.

Area of concern: Citizen Concerns

Comments from the survey are listed with an appropriate answer or response.

Other:

1. C: "confess my relative ignorance... I have spoken with some townfolk who feel skeptical about the current leadership's (fire Dept.) ability to manage a new facility." **R: The Volunteer Fire Association regularly held potluck dinners on a quarterly basis. It was found that the same supportive group were regulars. The Association does annual presentations at Town Meeting and held an informational meeting prior to the facilities bond issue vote last year. That does not mean that the association cannot do better in getting information out to the citizens. A web site is being developed as the current Facebook page is not getting visited often. We will be posting more information in the Town Newsletter and on the Town Website. A more efficient, modern Fire Station should be much easier to manage and maintain.**
2. C: Start a Firehouse study committee to evaluate needs and options, especially the re-use option. Give the fire association reasons to remain hopeful. **R: The Association Trustees have been studying the options for over a year. We are regrouping at the request of the Select Board and are having engineering evaluation performed on the feasibility of refurbishing versus replacement performed by an outside concern. The results will be released to the public when completed later this Spring. Volunteers who enter dangerous situations expected success must be considered optimistic.**
3. Q: Is a volunteer department with 5 vehicles and a wide range of services sustainable in a small community? **A: Each of the current vehicles has multiple uses (more on this in the response on vehicle concerns soon) in a town without municipal water, remote locations, state highways and class 3 and 4 roads, and multistory buildings. Eliminating any of these vehicles potentially sacrifices safety for some of your neighbors. Which of them would you choose for less fire and emergency services?**
4. C: Firehouse can wait. They don't take care of what they have... **R: The fire house continues to deteriorate and may end up unsafe for the vehicles and volunteers. Townspeople are welcome to visit on Tuesdays during training sessions to see the state of the building and equipment to see the compromises and efforts of the volunteers to keep the current building going.**
5. C: ...other facilities are more important. **R: Safety on our roads and in and around our homes requires adequate facilities for Road Maintenance and Emergency Services in our town. Meeting facilities and offices will not repair your roads, put out fires, or rescue vehicle occupants.**
6. C: Needed but currently functioning. My lowest priority. **R: See #2 and #5 above.**
7. C: Contractor or two...Army Corps...volunteers... **R: This call for volunteerism is commendable. Part of the pricing for a new Fire House so far included some of the work being performed by Fire Association personnel or work donated by the contractors. While in the past Middletown Springs had many skilled tradesmen, that is no longer the case. The Trustees are open to any offers of volunteer help.**
8. C: Needs more details... **R: See #1 above.**