



Support Fire/EMS

- State of play today:
 - The leaders of Fire/EMS believe current facilities are inadequate to meet the town's needs.
 - These leaders advocated utilizing the 1.3-acre parcel at 3 Jerome Smith (formerly the VFW post) to serve as a location for a new facility. Some background on the history of that site is below.
 - The town purchased the site on 2013-10-10 for \$300k, well below market value at the time.
 - An article authorizing the purchase at a 2013-10-21 special town meeting said the land could be used "for general municipal purposes, including, without limitation, for police station and/or affordable housing purposes."
 - A proposal to purchase a property adjacent to 3 Jerome Smith would have allowed both the Police Station and housing at the site. At an April 2015 Town meeting, however, the proposal to buy the adjacent lot failed to meet the two-thirds majority (vote: 173-133 or 57% approval). Buying the Winslow Farms parcel, owned by developer Jim Savko, would have allowed access from the back of the VFW lot to Winslow Street and thus allowed both projects to move forward on one site.
 - An April 2018 town meeting authorized development of the 3 Jerome Smith site for affordable housing.
 - Attendees at a Special Town Meeting in December 2019 tried – but failed - to set aside the former VFW property on Jerome Smith Road for a new police station, fire substation and fire training ground.
 - A needs assessment for Fire/EMS will take place over the summer of 2021. A committee is currently reviewing six vendors that responded to the RFP.
 - The location of additional Fire/EMS infrastructure is unsettled. It is expected that a new facility would release sites within the town currently used for Fire/EMS. These sites could either be put to alternate use or sold to generate cash to fund construction of a new Fire/EMS facility.
- PPRTA recommends:
 - The development of a proposal for Town Meeting attendees to consider that will provide sufficient funds to meet the needs for Fire/EMS.