

**Site Selection Committee Meeting
Minutes –March 17, 2021**

Members Present: Nick Strasser, City of Lodi; James Brooks, Town of Lodi; Kevin Kessler, Town of West Point, Bobby Annen, Fire Chief and Matt Davies, Fire Commission representative.

Others: Brenda Ayers, Clerk, City of Lodi, various firefighters.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by James Brooks in the Council Room at City Hall, 130 S Main, Lodi.

Roll call was taken –Nick Strasser, James Brooks, Kevin Kessler, Bobby Annen and Matt Davies were present.

Brooks reviewed the virtual etiquette for the meeting.

Election of Officers:

Chair- Strasser offered to serve as Chair. **MOTION** (Brooks, Davies) to elect Strasser as Chair. Voice vote- all ayes. **Motion carried.**

Vice Chair- **MOTION** (Kessler, Brooks) to nominate Matt Davies as Vice Chair. Voice vote- all ayes. **Motion carried.**

Secretary- It was the consensus of the Committee that the City Clerk will take minutes and it is not necessary to appoint a Secretary.

Public Input. There was no public input.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Feasibility Study Review. Brooks reported 4-5 years ago the Towns and City came together to hire a consultant to determine the viability of the Fire and EMS stations. The study sited many issues with current fire station and a new station was recommended. The site selection could be a new station on the current site or another location. The study also mentioned the need for water and sewer and a satellite station. According to the study, a satellite location in Harmony Grove would result in better ISO ratings for residents there. Brooks noted that he does not concur with that statement and has contacted insurance companies who have said that the rating would improve the Tipperary area, but not Harmony Grove. Chief Annen disagreed and noted that the study was well done. Brooks noted that in order for the Town to purchase property, they would need to take the vote to the electors of the Town to approve or deny- it would not be up to the Town Board. Strasser referred to page 26-32 of the study which contains five facility options. He further noted the study states there are maintenance issues with the current Fire Station that go beyond space needs. Brooks stated it is the job of the committee to come up with a recommended site or sites, not to guess what the residents will do when it is brought forward. Strasser noted the that the committee members agree that their responsibility is to decide what is best for the department. Chief Annen stated a new station and satellite need to be researched and Harmony Grove will benefit by having a truck within 5 miles. Committee members discussed the proposed station size and the options presented in the study. Kessler indicated a desire to use the recommendations in the study as a guide for making site selection decisions and not to second guess the study. He further noted that both main and satellite sites should be included in the recommendation, but doesn't necessarily recommend concurrent construction of the sites. Kessler further noted that he believes timing is of the essence due to possible COVID Relief Grant opportunities.

MOTION (Kessler, Brooks) to proceed under presumption that the committee will recommend a site for a main station as well as site for a satellite station. Voice vote all ayes. **Motion carried.**

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding What Aspects the Site Selection Committee Should Conduct in Closed Session. Strasser noted that general locations should be discussed in open session and discussion of specific sites may be discussion in closed session as to not compromise the future bargaining power of the municipalities.

Convene In Closed Session. MOTION (Brooks, Davies) to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session (discussion of potential sites). Roll call vote – Aye (Kessler, Brooks, Davies, Strasser, Annen); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

Reconvene to Open Session. MOTION (Kessler, Annen) to reconvene in open session. Voice Vote- all ayes. **Motion carried.**

Discussion regarding items discussed in Closed Session. Town and City representatives will contact with their respective Chairs/Mayor to discuss the expectations of the committee to determine if the committee is to simply make a recommendation regarding potential site(s) or also contact property owners to determine interest in selling.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items. Wednesday, March 31, at 6 p.m. Agenda items: Preliminary discussion regarding secondary Harmony Grove location, scope of presentation to municipalities, report and discussion regarding process (feedback from Mayor and Chairs) and Closed Session.

Adjourn. MOTION (Davies, Annen) to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Voice vote- all ayes. **Motion carried.**

Minutes by Brenda Ayers, City of Lodi Clerk