

The Fire Station Project was started and developed 3-years ago. A town-wide building committee was formed consisting of members at large from the community from varying backgrounds. The committee also included the Town Administrator, A member of the Board of Selectmen, and the Fire Chief. The board is currently a 7-member board. Work was started 3-years ago with the request to study renovating the existing building. It was found that doing this would be more expensive than building a new structure due to the age, construction, and condition of the current building. One key point was the concrete block it is constructed from. Due to new Building codes it would have to be reinforced with steel rods and this process may damage the building beyond the point of being able to salvage it. Also, the door heights for apparatus is extremely low. 9feet 10inches. The doors cannot be raised higher because of a steel I beam that runs across the top of the structure, which is a supporting beam for the entire building. That being said, the building has out-lived its useful life and is approaching 55 years of age. A new structure would be built and would last up to 75 years and be able to house new modern equipment without restriction. This was an extremely well thought out process and the committee worked extremely hard for over 3 years to get to this point and every option was discussed this was the best option for the money and provided a very long term solution. The Fire Station in Town has never been replaced. While we have had 3 Police Stations, 3 town halls, 3 schools, a number of ball fields, and 1 highway barn. Its time for a new station and there is no better time than now. Below is listed some frequently asked questions with answers. Please come by the station if you would like any further information on this project.

# New Fire Station Facts



Conceptual Drawing of New Dudley Fire Station located behind Town Hall at 71 West Main Street

For Further Information contact the Fire department at 508-949-8040, or the Town Administrator at 508-949-8001. Please attend Town Meeting on May 18 and vote on June 15.

- ◆ **How much will this cost me as a taxpayer?** The total project cost is \$ 8.9 million dollars, which will be spread over 30 years. This breaks down to a annual increase of \$143.75 per taxpaying household per year for the life of the loan . \$36.00 per quarter, \$12.00 per month, \$2.76 per week, 40 cents per day.
- ◆ **Why can't we build a cheaper building?** The committee looked at several options over 3 years. This was the best option for the money and got the taxpayer the best long term solution. Pre fabricated or steel buildings are not built to last more than 20 years. They are built as a short term solution and are meant for departments that do not have personnel in the building 24 hours a day. Furthermore , the building needs to be the town's emergency operations center during disasters, Pre Fab buildings do not meet the standard. Pre fab building are extremely inefficient and would cost a lot in utilities over the long term, which would mean increased costs in the department's operating budget. Also, keep in mind Massachusetts is a prevailing wage state, others around us are not. That increases total costs 10% to 20% before a hammer is even swung, or a piece of dirt is moved.
- ◆ **Are there alternative funding sources?** Unfortunately, No. The committee exhausted all avenues, even to the extent of visiting Rep. Richard Neal . There are no grants or earmarks for Buildings at this time. We did receive \$50,000 from the state for the design study and keep in mind the Fire Department has secured over \$500,000 in grant money for other items, something Dudley has never had in the past.
- ◆ **How will this affect the schools?** It won't, except in positive ways. The school is separate from municipal government, but it will improve fire education and prevention programs for elementary age students. It also improves town infrastructure overall and helps the department do its job better. Keep in mind you need good town services and infrastructure to have and maintain a good school system. They work hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other. All funds borrowed would be part of a Debt exclusion to be approved br Dudley voters on June 15th.