

# Answers for the Combined Fire Station Listening Session Questions (11/15/23)

The following answers and opinions are submitted in response to the 51 questions that community members submitted during recent Selectboard listening sessions regarding the future location of a new Castine Fire and Rescue Department (CFRD) station house.

**“Answers”** given below denote a provable metric, test result or fact.

**“Opinions”** have been derived from multiple sources such as the CFRD leadership’s 100 plus years of combined experience of service in Castine, or from contracted professionals (PhDs / Engineers/ Architects/ Geologists/ Hydrogeologists) analysis and interpretation of data stemming from testing results, standards, codes and ordinances.

1. What studies/information is available and where?

**Answer:**

All town reports are posted at the below link.

<https://castine.me.us/reports/>

The three most pertinent reports:

Fire Department Study Phase 1 published 8 / 31/ 2020

Fire Department Study Phase 2 published 11/ 10 / 2022

Sevee and Maher Soils Test report published 09 / 25/ 2023

Updates were provided by the town staff during 11 different Selectboard meetings from 7/15/2019 – Present with the Castine Patriot reporting on those meetings.

Castine Patriot front page articles on the following dates:

10 / 06 / 2022

02 / 03 / 2022

2. Why can’t we have some potential designs and ballpark pricing for several sites?

**Answer:**

It would be a Town and Selectboard decision on how much money the town has the appetite to spend on potential designs for three sites, knowing that the town will most likely utilize one.

**Opinion:** Not counting hiring a project manager, the rough order of magnitude cost of a preliminary site design for each site is in excess of \$40,000 per site.

3. Have environmental studies been done for each potential site?

**Answer:**

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) has been conducted on each of the primary 3 locations. However, a Phase I ESA is a background records check looking for red flags which would lead to further investigation. As there has been no building on the Battle Avenue lot for decades there were no red flags. A more detailed soils testing regimen has been conducted on the current fire station location and no results were

above residential remedial action guidelines (See Soil Testing Report on town web page). There were no red flags at the transfer station site except for the historic high salt level problem in the drinking water. The high salt level problem led the town to install and maintain the Route 166 well which is located across Route 166 from the transfer station.

**4. How many calls does the department deal with?**

**Answer:**

The data up to 2019 was part of the Fire Station Assessment Phase I report dated August 31, 2020. The 2019 numbers can be found on page 7 and were listed in the report as 133 Calls. There is a discrepancy between the report and the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System (MEFIRS) which is why below is listed at 146. The MEFIRS numbers for 2018 through 2022 are listed below.

2022: EMS:61, Non-EMS:68

2021: EMS:57, Non-EMS:73

2020: EMS:61, Non-EMS:59

2019: EMS:90, Non-EMS:56

2018: EMS:97, Non-EMS:73

**5. How many are EMS? How many are fire?**

**Answer:**

See the answer for number 4.

**6. Where have the most consequential calls been over the past 3 years?**

**Opinion:**

“Consequential” would need to be defined to truly answer this question as a saved life on a medical call would be consequential for some (certainly the patient), whereas a home fire may be defined as more consequential by others.

**Answer:**

In \$ value: House Fire - Off Neck 12/22/23

Life Safety/Life Hazard: Motor Vehicle Accidents X 3 over past 5 yrs,

Successful Cardiac Resuscitation, Traumatic Fall Injuries X 3

**Opinion:**

This question of location suggests a simple black and white answer to where a station should be located - place the station closest to the calls of most consequence in recent times. However, with the number of calls, a single incident impacts this data dramatically, and also varies considerably from year to year and over many years. Additionally, the exposures are more telling as far as total potential impact, especially when talking about fires. A single large home Off-Neck can be a huge loss, but it is generally, a loss of a single structure. On-Neck, a structure fire can quickly become multiple structures with the risk of larger loss of property and perhaps life.

**7. How many calls are on-neck? off-neck?**

**Answer:**

2022: On-Neck:67, Off-Neck:59

2021: On-Neck: 77,Off-Neck:53

2020: On-Neck:72, Off-Neck:48

2019: On-Neck:94, Off-Neck:46

4 yr Avg: On Neck:61%, Off-Neck:39%

**8. How many times have assisted a neighboring town?**

**Answer:**

2022: 7

2021: 6

2020: 6

2019: 4

4-year average: 5.75

The mutual aid calls to other communities are captured under “Off-Neck” calls in question #7.

**9. How many people do we need to have a fully staffed fire department?**

**Opinion:**

Complicated question. The community has to decide type of coverage it wants available for emergency response. Does the community want someone available to respond to an emergency or do we want enough people to respond to completely address the issue (Fire/EMS/Other)? Does the community want this coverage some of the time or all the time (24/7/365)? In a theoretical discussion, Castine as a community can address this question with statistical analysis, with the understanding that residents choose to live in a rural (read we accept some reality of less service) place, and a CBA mentality. Or, we can ask each individual, “what would you want the response to be if you had the emergency personally, if your house was on fire, or you were trapped in a burning vehicle, or you or a loved one was experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency. The honest discussion is probably a compromise somewhere in the middle that balances resources with exposure.

**Answer:**

To respond to a basic EMS call: You should have 2 EMS personnel, and a more complicated EMS call can require several (2-3) additional personnel for extra needed assistance. It would be ideal if one of the EMS licensees was an EMT-P, the highest level of care available(though we are not permitted to that level).

To respond to a rescue call (MVA, Water Rescue, etc.): You will need 10-12 personnel, with at least 8-10 of them being well trained, fully capable, extrication/fire suppression/incident command personnel.

To Respond to a Structure Fire: A very dynamic situation, but for thought purposes, a larger career department (Bangor) would immediately send 20 or so personnel to a house fire. The national minimum standard is at least 10.

Both of these counts are for fully trained, able-bodied FFs who are Pro-Board certified (Accredited Training to the NFPA's professional qualification standards) FF 1&2, i.e., younger, fit, fully trained personnel who can put on all the gear and SCBA and go into the structure, pump/drive the trucks, carry/move/throw ladders, climb on roofs, rescue each other or victims (carry/drag 150-250# individuals).

In addition, we would need 1-2 people to be able to respond to the station and remain there as dispatchers.

**10. How many people are members the Fire department now? How many students? How many full- time residents?**

**Answer:**

Total on the Fire Department roster: 47, Students:25, Full Time Residents:22

**Opinion:**

Straight numbers don't tell the whole story here. Of the full-time residents, only 6 of them are fully trained interior firefighters (FFs) and of those, only 3 should really be considered active as the other 3 are over 50 years old. Additionally, none of these individuals are in town all of the time as their full-time jobs take them away as much as 50% of the time. Also, 2 of the younger FFs very well may no longer live in Castine within the next 12-18 months. 3 of these town residents are EMS personnel only, and two of those are over 65 years old. 5 of these full time residents are limited to truck operations secondary to age and/or training, and 5 of them truly only operate in a limited auxiliary capacity, lending limited help where they are able. Only 5-6 of these individuals can act as incident commanders in the fullest sense of the word.

As far as the students are concerned, the total number is deceiving as well because of the 4-year rotation they go through and the time it takes to train them. The first year probational students (Freshman) are put through an inhouse fire training program that bridges their Coast Guard training to the Maine State Labor Boards minimum standard required to be interior attack Firefighters. This training takes a semester to complete; it is not an equivalency to the national standard FF 1& 2, but simply a very basic entry level training. The Castine Fire Department does not consider these students active members of the department until they complete this training, participate significantly during their second semester, and return and show up regularly at the beginning of their sophomore year. The attrition rate as the students move through their four years is high. A class often starts with as many as 25 students, dropping to 10-12 in their sophomore year, and 4-8 in their junior and senior years. On the CFRD's current roster, there are 4 seniors, 4 juniors, and 17 sophomores (this class was one of the largest incoming groups in a long time) with the expectation that only 10 of them will return in any significant contributory way next year. We are not considering this year's freshman as active members yet as they are still finishing up their probationary training and do not turn out to fire scenes. With this constant turnstile of students, it truly takes at least

2 years for students to rise to a level where they contribute in a truly helpful way, a few of them will even be sent to the county fire academy and train to be Pro-Board certified F1&2 and become true leaders among the department membership....and just about the time this happens, they graduate and leave us.

**11. Where do they live? How many on-neck? How many off-neck? How many on the Shore Rd. and the Castine Rd.?**

**Answer:**

Non-Student Volunteers

On-Neck:13, Off-Neck:8 (Shore Rd:5, Castine Rd:3)

Student Volunteers

MMA Campus: 20, 5 elsewhere

**Opinion:**

Also not as simple as the straight numbers as not all volunteers are equal. Some are only EMS, most are not IC capable, very few are Interior FFs, etc...Additionally, no determination about the location of a 50- 75-year station should be based on the location where any individual currently lives, as these numbers are going to be different in just a few years, most likely they will be different this time next year.

**12. How many live in the dorms?**

**Answer:**

20 members of the Fire Department live in MMA dormitories.

**13. Why did Port City Architecture seem to dismiss a satellite station?**

**Answer:**

Port City did not dismiss this idea and provided analysis on the idea. It was discussed at length at the January 26, 2022, public engagement for Phase II.

<https://penobscotbaypress.com/news/2022/feb/4/consultants-present-fire-station-report-findings-a/>

**Opinion:**

Port City's Analysis showed that the call volume, highest exposure risk, and the predominance of the able-bodied personnel coming from the Academy for over half the year support the best location for the station as being On-Neck.

**14. Is a satellite station possible/probable?**

**Answer:**

To our knowledge and ability to find, there is only one community anywhere close to Castine's size etc (Sedgwick) where capability is divided into substations.

**Opinion:**

It would be a town decision to build multiple (if Court Street is picked and the plan includes a substation), buildings to meet a single requirement with no gain in operational capability. In short, if the town chooses to spend more money on initial construction as well as long term maintenance costs with no gain in capability, it is up to

the town. The CFRD leadership and the town's professional consultants recommend against this course of action.

**15. Could we keep the main station on Court St. and have a satellite at the Transfer Station?**

**Answer:**

Much like the answer to question 14, could multiple buildings be constructed to meet one requirement? Yes.

**Opinion:**

Both lots discussed on Court Street are .19 Acres for a total of 19% of the assessed 2-acre requirement. To make Court Street viable the town would have to first negotiate with MMA to acquire the lot. Two buildings must be part of the plan for that site, which would mean a third building for a substation at the transfer station. The increased initial construction and long-term maintenance costs for three buildings would need to be incorporated into the plan. The CFRD leadership and our expert consultants recommend against this course of action.

**16. How can we be making decisions without a project manager?**

**Answer:**

Once the community decides on a site, a project manager should be sought.

**17. When do we plan to get a project manager to represent the Fire Department and taxpayers in this process?**

**Answer: See the below.**

**Opinion:**

Once the town has voted on a site, a project manager should be immediately sought.

**18. Can we hire a project manager before we begin making major decisions?**

**Answer:**

**Opinion:**

See the answers to questions 16 and 17.

**19. The Phase I & II reports have biased language. Do we need a new study with a non-biased firm?**

**Answer:**

Fire department leadership aggressively pushed to have the town solicit outside experts to perform a needs and assessment study and develop recommendations for the future of emergency services in Castine. Even though the Castine Fire Rescue Department's leadership have over 100 combined years of experience in public safety in Castine, it was felt that the community would question a recommendation simply coming from the FD leadership on its own. The town agreed to this and supported the funding of such a study and report. A bid process was undertaken and Port City was the only firm willing to do the assessment within the limited budget the town approved. Over several months, the department leadership and many

non-leader members worked with Port City answering many questions and producing over 15 data reports from which they culled information and eventually produced the first report in late 2020. Port City Architecture is one of the leading architectural firms in Maine with extensive experience in the area of fire station design and construction. Castine asked them to review the town and its needs and capabilities relative to the emergency services and report back to us. They did so, and appropriately expressed their opinions about the data they collected. This was their job and is exactly the task for which the town contracted their services. If the town simply wanted data points so that lay community members could assess them and make their own determination about the emergency service capabilities and needs for Castine over the next half century, the FD leadership could have simply shared the reports and answers to questions on the town website. However, the community agreed it makes sense to seek EXPERT opinions in specialized and complex matters. The town was not seeking an audit of the data for verification purposes as one does with an accountant; we were asking for their judgment and point of view on this issue. These reports are going to be full of such expressions of opinion, if this is bias of a negative sort, we would suggest such bias is unavoidable when one seeks input by experts in their field. The observations and suggestions made within these reports are most likely comparable to those any other such consultants in this field would make and would stand the test of peer review by other similar experts in design and emergency services.

**20. Has there been a risk assessment done for each of the 3 potential sites?**

**Answer:**

See the answer for question #3.

**21. How does Jerry Paul feel about donating land on Court St?**

**Answer:** The answer to this question will be provided once it is received.

**22. Can we explain the gap between where we are and where we need to be as related to the fire station?**

**Answer:**

Page 3 through Page 27 of the Initial Phase I Fire Department Study dated 3/31/2020 answers this question. This was a report generated by non-Castine resident expert consultants.

**Opinion:**

Castine's current station is old station at over 62 years in service and meets almost no modern required standard. There is not enough space for apparatus, not enough space for equipment, not enough space for training, no room for career personnel to live if the town needs to go in that direction.

**23. Can we have a gap analysis performed?**

**Answer:**

Yes, see the town's web page and handouts at the public engagement on 12/14/2023.

**24. How does the town plan to finance the new station?**

**Answer:**

Unknown currently, but presumably through a combination of taxation, bonding, and perhaps grants.

**Opinion:**

High dollar grants are very competitive and Castine has not been a winning candidate for many of them due to the town's high median income.

**25. Using the example of the gas station that used to be on Windmill Hill – is a fire station less dangerous than a gas station?**

**Opinion:**

The gas station possessed multiple (4) underground storage tanks for petroleum products with a capacity of 17,000 gallons of fuel, and the business kept unknown quantities of oils etc. Underground storage tanks in SWPO Zone 2 have been prohibited since the Source Water Protection Ordinance was enacted on April 4, 2009. No underground storage tanks will be contemplated or designed into a new Fire Station at any location, and any above ground storage of fuel will far exceed Castine's SWPO standards.

**Answer:**

A gas station/garage was historically located where the Windmill Hill Market / Brouillard Electric and student parking rental businesses are now. The gas station operated from sometime in the 1950s, and there were still underground storage tanks on the lot until roughly 2008. The station's original tanks were 4 underground storage tanks with a capacity of 17,000 gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline. These tanks were abandoned and removed circa July of 1998 with a corresponding Department of Environmental Protection spill report which listed just under three gallons (2.99 gal) of fuel spilled. These tanks were replaced by newer double walled fiberglass tanks which were removed in circa 2008 in conjunction with the sale of the property to its current owner. In 2007, when the town was looking at its water sources to search for better production, there was a report in an Operations and Maintenance manual noting a "concern" over the possibility that if the Windmill Hill wells were expanded the increased pumping might draw contamination from the gas station's underground storage tanks into the drinking water. The 2007 concerns were never manifested in testing results, as testing of the Windmill Hill wells from 2005-2008 did not find any compounds associated with fuel contamination at these wells. The underground tanks were removed circa 2008.

In Castine's Source Water Protection Ordinance (SWPO) Zone 2, the underground storage of petroleum products has been prohibited in Castine since the town's enactment of the SWPO on April 04, 2009. Above ground storage of petroleum



products must be designed with either double walled tanks or be surrounded by an impermeable barrier having a capacity of 110% of the the fuel stored. (Article 13, sections 13.2 and 13.3 of the SWPO). Any Fire Station that the Town of Castine builds will far exceed any standard set by the town.

If the above answer does not completely answer the question, please ask the question again of the Olver Associates representatives that will be present on 14 December 2023 at Emerson Hall.

**26. Why were the test bores only 6” deep for the soil study?**

**Answer:**

This question was asked of Sevee and Maher Engineering before their soils test final report was released to the public by the Town of Castine. The reason is dissipation at depth. This term means that if one is going to find a higher concentration of a chemical, it will most likely be found on the surface. If a chemical is found on the surface that exceeds a standard, deeper exploration is called for. At the current Fire Station site at 13 Court Street, no chemical was found that exceeded the State of Maine residential remedial action guidelines (RAGs) so further (deeper) exploration was not called for. The principal of Sevee and Maher Engineering will be at the 14 December 2023 meeting and if this does not fully answer your question, ask it of the expert.

**27. What happened on the west side of the existing fire station to create more chemicals present in the soil study?**

**Answer:**

Unknown. No chemicals found at the site exceeded the State of Maine Remedial Action Guidelines (RAGs). As the Fire Station has been at this location for over 62 years, this question can't be answered accurately or definitively. Further, it is unknown whether the below RAG chemicals found emanated from the Fire Station or the abutting property.

**28. What is the normal life of a fire station and how long do we plan for this one to last?**

**Answer:**

The current station has been in use for over 62 years. Castine should expect to get at least 50 years out of a replacement – or hopefully much longer if the facility is properly maintained.

**29. Can we get a written report from Peter Garrett and Olver & Associates regarding the source water protection?**

**Opinion:**

This is a very broad question, so an assumption must be made that the questioner was asking about the Battle Avenue lot which is one of the prospective locations for a new fire station.

**Answer:**

Input from Olver Associates, Annaleis Hafford P.E. and Peter Garrett, PhD was provided to the town at the February 2, 2023, Utility Board meeting where the Utility Board found that the Battle Avenue site was “nominally” in compliance with the Source Water Protection Ordinance. The term nominally in compliance was used as a preliminary design of the site would be required for a firm to produce an Environmental Impact Analysis or Source Water Impact Analysis in accordance with Article 12 (General Activity Standards) and Article 14 (Source Water Impact Analysis) of the Source Water Protection Ordinance. However, these niche areas for this project would not be conducted by Olver Associates as another firm will need to be contracted as the project moves into the preliminary design phase.

**30. Is it possible for a hydrologist to make a call on the Battle Avenue site without seeing a detailed site plan?**

**Answer:**

Yes, as the geology and hydrology have not changed. However, Peter Garrett, PhD will be available to give a more detailed answer to this question on December 14, 2023.

**31. What is our timeline? Will we be finished in 2025, 2026, 2027?**

**Opinion:**

Realistically, we still need to determine the site, have a design developed and accepted, commit funding, and finally move to the construction phase. If all went perfectly going forward with minimal delays, perhaps we could have a design toward which funding could be committed in the spring of 2025 with building starting that summer and finishing by the end of 2026, but most likely this will take at least one more year beyond that.

**Answer:**

This is completely dependent upon the residents of Castine.

**32. Can we bring in a representative from another nearby town who has recently been through this process to address what they did right and what they wish they would have done and to take questions?**

**Answer:**

Yes. The Selectboard and/or Town Manager will explore making this happen.

**33. What would be the steps taken to protect from contamination?**

**Answer:**

The steps taken to protect any of the prospective sites from contamination of any variety are too numerous to list and would exist at any site picked for the development of a Fire Station.

**Opinion:**

National Guidelines exist for this which drive station design and engineered

systems that are followed by personnel to protect both the firefighters and the surrounding environment and community. (International Building Code and National Fire Protection Agency-(NFPA) standards.

**34. Port City based their report on outdated information. In 2009 when the Source Water Ordinance was adopted the supply ponds were not used as a drinking water source for the Town. They are now and have been being used for many years. They should be classified as Zone 1. I have presented this issue to the Town Utility Board and they are reviewing it. If the supply ponds are designated Zone 1 the consultants should reflect that in their report and conclude the Battle Ave site is potentially in violation of the setback requirements of a Zone 1 water supply.**

**Opinion:**

The submitted statement is restated as a question below.

Since some water is now being drawn from the reservoirs into the horizontal well, should the town vote to change the SWPO and designate the reservoirs in their entirety as SWPA Zone 1? Also, if the town vote's to approve the change, would potential building activity on Map 20 Lot 8A (Battle Avenue Lot) violate the setback requirements for SWPA Zone 1?

**Answer:**

Port City did not base their report upon outdated information as the definitions in Castine's SWPO have not been changed. Castine's SWPO dtd April 4, 2009 designates Source Water Protection Area Zone 1 as "All land in the SWPA lying within a circle of 300 foot radius around each water supply well". (SWPO dtd April 4, 2009 Article 18 definitions)

Inside of the 300' radius only Castine Water Department activities are authorized. (SWPO, Article 9, Sec. 9.1 and Article 10, Sec 10.1)

**Opinion:**

If the SWPA Zone 1 definition were to be changed to encompass the reservoirs on Battle Avenue and kept at a 300' feet diameter around the reservoirs, the GENERIC site schematic shown on page 22 of the Phase II report dtd 11/10/2022 would fall outside of 300' feet (approximately 350') from the edge of the reservoirs. In this hypothetical of targeting only activity on the North side of Battle Avenue, there would be no impact on Map 20 Lot 8A, but there would be two homes and one barn inside the 300 feet diameter ring from the reservoirs. If the definition was written with similar verbiage as it is currently written and sought to restrict some activities around all sides of the reservoirs, this impact would expand to another 6-8 homes to the South of Battle Avenue.

However, if the town were to vote to change the Battle Avenue SWPA Zone 1 and focus on the surface and groundwater recharge areas ie. where the water comes from- (Peter Garrett, PhD report dated 2009), then no homes to the North or South of Battle Avenue nor any building activity contemplated on Tax Map 20, Lot 8A would be impacted. Peter Garrett PhD will expand on this at the 14 December 2023 meeting.

**35. Phase 2 report of 9/10/2022 section D recommends 10-20 parking spaces-more if used for Town Events. Plan for Battle Ave site shows in excess of 30 parking spaces. Who approved or requested that the consultants increase the parking spaces by 50% and what "Town Events" are being contemplated?**

**Answer:**

There was no request made by anyone from the Town of Castine to increase the parking spaces on the generic space drawing. However, it is logical to include an obvious need for parking into a design for a new building (wherever the town approves) so that when the Fire Department meets to train or have meetings, they will no longer need to park on the street or in front of their neighbor's homes.

**Opinion:**

The image in the report reflects zero details about the proposed station; it is a generic drawing simply meant to provide an image on the lot for the purpose of presenting a fire house and its surroundings. The number of parking spaces in the image is random and unrelated to anything specific about Castine. No specific town events are being contemplated or planned. However, it just seems logical if the town is building a new space of any kind with meeting room/training space; it would be open for use by the general public to use similar to the current uses of town hall. With 47 members on the Fire Department roster of which 20 members live in the MMA dorms, it is logical to include parking space larger than what can be found at the SWPO Zone II parking lot at Fort George, but significantly smaller than the SWPO Zone II parking area found at the Castine Golf Club.

**36. September 25, 2023, SME engineers report states on the top of page 2 "With training and decontamination conducted off-site, the potential for firefighting related contaminants to enter the environment is very low".**

**Answer:**

This is accurate in the context of evaluating a building with no laundry (decontamination) facility and only an undersized classroom / training / meeting room in the current station.

**37. The proposed Battle Ave plans show a large training room (needs 30+ parking spaces-see above) and both a decontamination room and a laundry facility included in the Fire Station therefore INCREASING the potential for contamination.**

**Answer:**

The response to this comment is below.

**Opinion:**

See question 35 regarding parking. The training on premises would be didactic/classroom. The training mentioned in the report is hands-on training, such as live fire burns/auto extrication etc. This training would be

done off premises, as would primary decontamination. However, there would still exist the need to decontaminate both gear and personnel (laundry and showers) upon returning to the station. The new station would have engineered design features to do this safely in ways that protect the firefighters and the “livable” space in the station from continued exposure to contaminants, as well as the environmentally required systems to treat the effluent of the decontamination process. Firefighting ensembles (jackets, pants, flash hoods, gloves helmets and boots should all be decontaminated after use. To remove dirt, residue (and the carcinogens within) a commercial gear washing extractor and dryer should be available for use (home use appliances are not appropriate for cleaning fire gear) At this time CFRD members must borrow the MMA extractor and drying cabinet when available around MMA use.

**38. Seems like a conflict of “best practices“ between the architect and the environmental engineer?**

**Answer:**

This statement will need to be asked as a detailed question on December 14, 2023.

**39. The Battle Avenue site sits atop the source water protection area. Section 12 of the Castine Source Water Protection Ordinance states that "activities within the SWPA shall be conducted in a manner that will not cause a material increased risk of contamination would a fire station be an increased risk of contamination? Who decides that?**

**Answer:** Please ask this question of the expert panel assembled on December 14, 2024.

**Opinion:**

This decision will be made by the voters of Castine. The Selectboard, town staff and Fire Department Leadership are endeavoring to provide the voters of Castine with fact-based information with which to make an informed decision.

**40. Port City Architecture's recommendation is for an 11,000 square foot building, bigger than the stations in Rockland, Camden or Belfast. Is it true that the bigger and costlier the station is, the more Port City gets paid? is this a conflict?**

**Answer:**

The question presupposes that Castine leadership and voters are not the ultimate decision body for the scope of this project and will blindly accept any design produced. The size, aesthetics and every other negotiable measure of a new station will have to be paid for which is only in the hands of the voters. The generic space plan developed during the Phase I report is rooted in NFPA standards and accepted best practices for fire station design.

**Opinion:**

This is their recommendation. It is very likely we would not need to build an 11,000 square foot building, but the intention is to build something that will be adequate for the next 50 years. Perhaps we build something slightly smaller, but well designed so an addition could easily be added in the future to meet greater space needs. As far as a comparison to the other town's stations, those are all older stations, and the leadership of every one of those departments would like more space currently. We must consider the fact that we will likely have to go to paid department members in the near future. Housing will have to be provided within the new station to accommodate this staff.

- 41. The Castine fire station, in its current 1/3-acre property, has at least 4, or maybe 5, neighbors bordering the station property. Have there been any record of complaints or safety concerns from those neighbors? (There two homes on either side of the current fire house on Court Street, and 3 behind on Perkins)**

**Opinion:**

Nothing significant. They have generally been very supportive of the department, even allowing members to park on their properties during call and trainings as there is inadequate parking at the current station; we only have space for 6 personal vehicles on the tarmac.

- 42. What are the benefits of having the station close to MMA?**

**Answer:**

It is the singular source of the department's able-bodied firefighters, most of whom walk/run to the station from their dormitories or classrooms for calls.

- 43. I understand that during the academic year about 75% of the CRFD manpower comes from MMA. How do the student firefighters get to the station?**

**Answer:**

Same answer as for question #42.

- 44. If the Fire Station was moved to the Transfer Station how would the students get there?**

**Answer:**

Unknown at this time, but a process would have to be developed.

**Opinion:**

The town (Fire Department) would probably have to have a van one of the upper classman could drive to shuttle students to the station. An arrangement would have to be made with MMA for a space to park this vehicle on campus. Because of the reality of individuals ability to get to wherever this van would be parked the response time would either be delayed waiting for everyone to arrive, or some personnel would be left behind, reducing the personnel available for the response.

**45. How can MMA benefit the financial burden in the future to bring in fire response?**

**Answer:**

This is unknown at this time and will need to be discussed by the Selectboard and MMA leadership.

**46. Has the town developed a timeline for the project?**

**Answer:**

No specific timeline has been developed.

**Opinion:**

No, not specifically. The expectation is once a lot/location is determined, a design would have to be developed which could easily take 6-9 months. This then would have to be approved, voted for and the finances committed at a town meeting. Then construction could commence. An ideal timeline would have construction start in the summer of 2025, but it is more realistic this would not start until 2026 with a finished station by the fall of 2027. This depends on the project moving through town approval relatively seamlessly.

**47. If so, what is it?**

**Answer:**

See the answer for question # 46.

**48. Are there grants we can apply for?**

**Answer:**

Possibly, but Castine has not been a great candidate for large dollar external funding due to the nature of the town such as median income and valuation.

**49. Will there be paid staff at the new station?**

**Answer:**

No plan for paid staff exists at this time, but the town should be prepared for this if it is required.

**Opinion:**

Though the issue has been raised on numerous occasions, no plan exists to address the shortfall of personnel. This reality is coming very quickly at some level, and it is possible that by 2026 or 2027, town will need some level of career staff. This discussion revisits the question about staffing needs and the type of emergency services coverage Castine wants as a community.

**50. If the town owned property on Battle Avenue is more than 5 acres, and the department needs less than 3 acres for the new facility, doesn't that mean there could be more than a one-acre buffer on each side of the property between the two current residents on Battle Ave?**

**Answer:**

The geometry of space usage on the Battle Avenue Lot has not been worked out as to date, the town has only received a generic space plan for the site. However, with the amount of land that the town owns, it is a very reasonable assumption that there is plenty of space on the lot for a buffer between any building activity and neighbors.

**Opinion:**

There is plenty of land at the Battle Avenue location. Exactly the amount of space between the new structure and abutters is hard to determine until plans are produced.

**51. What are the unique challenges that Castine Fire and Rescue faces, and how do we address those challenges?**

**Answer:**

For station issues, see pp. 18 & 19 of phase 1 report: inadequate space, no decon space, no appropriate engineered exposure containment, poor egress, no living quarters, no fire alarm/suppression system, inadequate bathrooms, not ADA compliant, and many more.

**Opinion:**

Not enough personnel...that's it. We will need paid career staff soon.

An aging fleet of expensive to replace apparatus. The CFRD currently has an inventory of about \$1,000,000.00 of apparatus (Engines, Tanker, and Rescue vehicles). All but one of them needs replacement (At least one should already have been replaced). The cost for these three new vehicles currently would total approximately \$1,000,000.00 and will become more expensive every year.