February 17th, 2009

On February 17th, 2009, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Millwood Fire District held a Special Meeting with regard to the EIS and other issues at 7:30pm at Fire Station No. 2, located at 366 Croton Dam Road in the Town of New Castle. Present were: Chairman Hala Makowska, Commissioners: Alan Schapiro, Angelo Indusi, Secretary Paul Michael Marinello, Urban Santone, Greg Santone, Mike Horan, Todd Kruger, Sara Brewster, Kurt & Dianne Klienmann, Phil Rice, Tom Curley, Gene Nadel, Frank Nueberger, Paulette Rotta and various New Castle taxpayers. Absent were Fred Scheier and Anthony Olenik.

Agenda and sign in sheet attached.

Assignment of one Commissioners to open Public Meeting: Chairman Makowska made a motion to open the meeting, Seconded by Schapiro, All in Favor.

Chairman Makowska spoke with regard to the plans which are currently in existence or soon to be formed for the new fire station by referring to the dry erase board:

	Option	Approx Sq Ft.	Date
1)	Current Preferred Plan (Lanza)	19,000	10/07
2)	WENT Plan	18,000	2/08
3)	Base JLN Plan	17,200	1/09
4)	Option 1 JLN Plan	16,000	1/09
5)	Back up bay	NA	NA
6)	No Build	NA	NA
7)	Current Zoning	NA	NA

Chairman Makowska spoke with regard to the size and cost of the current Lanza plan and that the likelihood getting a bond approval was very low.

Commissioner Schapiro spoke with regard to the Special Meeting in January to work with the firefighters to naturally reduce the size and cost of the building, in turn reducing the overall footprint and size of retaining wall.

Mr. Gene Nadel spoke with regard to the alternate plans, and commended the Board on how the process was moving along.

Mr. William McGovern spoke with regard to additional costs for JLN, the Ernest Vesce land, and whether or not the covenants can be removed without court intervention.

Mr. Tom Curley spoke with regard to the alternate plans to be included in DEIS. Chariman Makowska answered that the Board was working closely with AKRF to produce a streamlined document. Their plan was to hone in on proper alternatives.

Chairman Makowska spoke with regard to abandoning the current preferred plan by Lanza. As it does not properly meet the firematic needs, is too expensive (won't get bond approval), and that it was not a viable solution.

Chairman Makowska made a motion to abandon the preferred plan, Seconded by Commissioner Schapiro, All in Favor.

Chairman Makowska spoke with regard to terminating the current contract with Bernard Lanza. She said some of the consequences would be a new RFP process which would last 3-4 weeks and having architects that specialize in firehouses.

Commissioner Schapiro mentioned that such a process would open the district up to competitive bidding.

Mr. Kurt Klienman made a statement for the record with regard to the district's cumulative spending on the current architect as well as a warning about the past decision made by the Board with regard to spending the community's money. About the current decisions made by the Board, Mr. Klienman said that 'they also thought they were making the right decisions.'

Commissioner Schapiro spoke about having a more direct approach with the public in the process and how the Board is more in tune to public concerns.

Mr. Tom Curley spoke with regard to the 'new approach to develop the project' with help of the consultants was a smart idea.

Mr. Phil Rice spoke with regard to the new and what he considers right approach; that by terminating the contract the Board has the opportunity to open the project up to multiple bidders (particularly in the current economic state) and that would keep the costs down.

Ms. Sara Brewster congratulated the Board for their hard work.

Mr. Frank Nueberger spoke with regard to the current zoning issues surrounding the Realis property.

Chairman Makowska made a motion to terminate the contract with Bernard Lanza, architect, Seconded by Commissioner Schapiro, All in Favor.

Commissioner Indusi spoke with regard to looking further into the WENT plan.

Chairman Makowska made a motion for JLN to do a three week study with regard to a paid/volunteer to a fully paid department at a cost of $7,180, Seconded by Commissioner Schapiro, All in favor.

Chairman Makowska made a motion to have Sterling Appraisals to do appraisals to see what affect the new firehouse will have on the surrounding neighbors at a cost of $8,750, Seconded by Commissioner Schapiro, All in Favor.

Fire Fighter Mike Horan thanked the Board for their hard work over the past few weeks and appreciates having the FACT committee and community be able to voice ther opinniones and concerns.

Mr. Gene Nadel echoed Mike’s comments. He reiterated that the FACT committee is essential in helping the Board and that the Board should keep up the good work.

Chairman Makowska made a motion to close the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Indusi, All in Favor.

Paul Michael Marinello
Secretary