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EMBARGOED UNTIL:

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BEDFORD FIRE PLANNING FOR NEW FIREHOUSE

BEDFORD, NY – The Bedford Village Fire District (District) is in negotiations with the architecture firm H2M Architects + Engineers to plan and design a potential new Firehouse for Fire and EMS services in Bedford Village. The firm works extensively on Emergency Response Facilities having completed over 200 projects nationwide and several in our area, including the Poughkeepsie Public Safety Facility and Norwalk Fire Department.

Current Fire House

The Bedford Fire Department (Department) was created in 1923 by a few local volunteers and moved to its current location at 34 Village Green 88 years ago in 1929. There was one addition to the building, 60 years ago in 1957; otherwise the firehouse has had no major renovations or updates. The Department has six apparatus in two bays, a utility vehicle and a fire safety education trailer stored outside behind the firehouse, and a storage shed.

The current firehouse is centrally located in Bedford Village, but the building and location pose a number of challenges in today's emergency services environment.

- Members' gear is stored between the apparatus, making it very tight to get dressed and posing a safety risk with moving apparatus.
- Diesel fumes create carcinogenic particles that penetrate the gear exposed to the exhaust.
- Given vehicle placement (2 rows, 3 deep), it is a challenge and a delay to rearrange and respond with the appropriate apparatus.
- The area around the Village Green is often busy with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, a possible safety hazard when the Department responds to or returns from calls.
- There is insufficient accessible parking for responding members.
- Apparatus must be custom designed in order to fit through the low door of the building, creating significant expense and limitations for apparatus development.
- The current building has a basement, which prohibits the Department from having some essential vehicles due to weight limitations (i.e. a tanker truck is a key resource in providing water at a fire due to the lack of hydrants and rural nature of the District).



- The absence of training areas for our volunteers causes additional expense due to the necessity of using other, often distant, facilities.
- The building is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines due to door widths and lack of ramps, elevator and restrooms.
- There are not separate or adequate shower and restroom facilities for male and female members.
- The building has insufficient and inefficient heating and cooling systems.

New Firehouse

A new building will alleviate the numerous safety issues associated with the current structure, as well as provide additional benefits, such as:

- Defined areas for Fire and EMS operations, and for the public
- Drive through bays to allow safe access and response of apparatus
- Space for equipment storage and maintenance
- Areas for Fire and EMS training
- Parking availability for responding members, while freeing up parking in the Village
- An ability to maintain and inspect apparatus inside the firehouse
- Diesel exhaust abatement system

Location

An approximately 10 acre lot at Old Post Road (Routes 22 and 172) and South Brook Road was purchased by the District in 2012 and it includes a large buildable footprint to work with. Only ¼ mile from the current location, it is centrally located in the district for optimum response times.



Timeframe and Cost

- Planning phase is expected to take a few months and the District will be working with the Town of Bedford on permits and planning.
- Project costs are uncertain at this time as the planning phase will need to be completed.
- Long-term District capital planning efforts have been employed to minimize the costs of this project.
- The District has established a Building Reserve Fund, already purchased the land, and owns the current building.

The District will be communicating regularly with the public as this project progresses to help answer any questions or concerns the public may have. Information will also be provided through the Department's website (bedfordfire.com) and Facebook page (facebook.com/bedfordfire/). In addition, an email address and phone number has been set up for inquiries NFC@bedfordfire.com or (914) 205-6341.

About the Bedford Fire Department

Bedford Village, a community with a population of 6,000 inhabitants, is a hamlet within the Town of Bedford and is located in Westchester County, New York. The Department, which serves the Bedford Village Fire District, is comprised solely of volunteers, responding to over 600 Fire and EMS alarms a year. We have been serving the community since 1923 and are always looking for new members.

Our mission is to provide the residents, merchants and those who pass through the Bedford Village Fire District with the highest degree of fire protection, rescue and emergency medical service and community education in a professional and courteous manner.

Our members are certified by the State of New York in both firefighting (FF-I or FF-II) and emergency medicine (EMT). They also train and maintain certifications in a variety of other firefighting, rescue and emergency medical disciplines.

About the Bedford Village Fire District

The District is a district corporation and political subdivision of the State, distinct from the Town of Bedford in Westchester County, New York. The District covers approximately thirteen square miles and maintains one firehouse. The District's 2017 general fund budgeted appropriations totaled approximately \$960,000.00, and were funded primarily by real property taxes

The Board of Fire Commissioners is composed of five-elected members who each serve a five year term, and is responsible for the District's overall financial management, and safeguarding its resources, including the approval of all financial claims against the District.

About H2M architects + engineers (H2M)

Building communities since 1933, H2M is a multi-disciplined professional consulting and design firm. With a long history of client service, we consistently meet tough architectural, engineering and environmental challenges head-on. From treatment facilities to firehouses, from land surveying to road reconstruction, and from site assessment to remediation, we've helped design and build many communities.