



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Building Commission & Fire Commission
Special Joint Meeting

RECEIVED

By Erica Boucher at 1:11 pm, Jun 03, 2026

Meeting Date: May 28, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)
Town Hall, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078

Permanent Building Commission Members Present:

Chairman Kevin Goff, Vice Chairman Glenn Neilson, Commissioner William Gozzo Commissioner Joseph Sangiovanni, Commissioner Catherine Ellithorpe, Commissioner Martin Page, Commissioner Henry Miga, Commissioner Brian Baril

Permanent Building Commission Members Absent:

None.

Fire Commission Members Present:

First Selectman, Interim Fire Commission Chair, Colin Moll, Commissioner Christian, Commissioner O'Hurley, Commissioner Thibedeau, Commissioner Vindigni

Fire Commission Members Absent:

Commissioner Bucior, Commissioner Prusi

Also Present:

Chief Gauthier, Lee Corbert - Director of Public Works, Anthony DiLuzio (Colliers), Jeff McElravy and Rebecca Hopkins (Tecton)

Call to Order

PCB Chairman Kevin Goff called the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. to discuss progress and planning for Firehouse 1.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Goff invited Anthony DiLuzio of Colliers to present to the commission members. Mr. DiLuzio introduced himself and explained the purpose of the presentation which included the following:

Colliers – Anthony DiLuzio

- A) Working Group Members - Review of Bloomfield CT Firehouse visit
- B) Fire Department/Commission Member Input
- C) Consolidated Program of Spaces
- D) Program Comparison to Bloomfield Fire

Tecton Architects – Jeff McElravy and Rebecca Hopkins – Program Test Fit Implications

- A) Renovation/Addition existing site
- B) New Building on existing site
- C) New Building on Annex Site

Colliers / Tecton

- A) Opinion of probable Costs (CIP, Renovate/Add in Place, New on Alt Site)
- B) Updated Schedule looking forward with Benchmarks Highlighted
- C) Program Spaces to be removed

Mr. DiLuzio shared updates since the visit to the Bloomfield Firehouse since the last working group meeting in late April. Working Group Members Chief Gauthier, Commissioner Christian and Commissioner O’Hurley shared positive feedback from their visit to the Bloomfield Firehouse, noting that the 12,000 square foot space met current and future fire department needs, including accommodations for trucks, staff, volunteers, and multi-purpose spaces.

The project team (Colliers and Tekton) presented updated plans showing program adjustments and conceptual site plans. Rebecca Hopkins (Tecton) reviewed and refined a fire station design program, reducing the square footage from 15,000 to 12,450 square feet through efficiency improvements and switching to a single-story design. Key changes included eliminating vertical circulation, consolidating bunks to four flexible spaces, and adjusting the apparatus bay layout to four drive-through bays. The new program maintains adaptability while incorporating lessons learned from Bloomfield's substation design, though the training room component remains optional as an alternative that would add approximately 1,800 square feet.

Ms. Hopkins (Tecton) presented capacity and design modifications for a new fire station, focusing on apparatus bays and a potential training room addition. The group reviewed plans for new construction on an annex site, including drive-through bays and site layout considerations. The discussion covered cost implications, with the base option priced at approximately \$14.9 million and the training room addition increasing the total to around \$17 million. Chief Gauthier expressed support for including a training room, noting its value for multiple town organizations beyond the fire department.

Ms. Hopkins (Tecton) presented two design concepts for a fire station renovation and addition. The new construction on a new site would provide more functional drive-through bays and separated spaces, though it would require maintaining operations during construction. The addition-renovation scheme on the existing site would infill one existing bay with support spaces while adding two new bays, though these new bays would not have drive-through capacity. The group noted that while the \$2.2 million price difference between options might not be as significant as initially calculated, the new construction scheme was preferred for its better layout and functionality.

The group discussed renovation versus new construction options for a facility expansion, with Town presenting cost estimates and considerations. The renovation option would require moving operations to temporary facilities due to the extensive work needed on the basement mechanical and electrical systems, while the new construction would provide additional space including a drive-through bay. Ms. Hopkins presented total hard costs of \$11.3 million for renovation and \$15.5 million for new construction, noting that the renovation option actually includes more square footage despite having similar overall costs to new construction.

The project team presented various options for fire station relocation and construction, including potential moves to Ratley Road and Thompsonville locations. The team addressed concerns about site development costs, vehicle parking, and bunking facilities for overnight crews. The discussion covered communication tower requirements, with confirmation that a new police department tower would likely eliminate the need for a separate fire station tower. The team also compared costs between renovation and new construction options, noting that new construction would require a lower owner's contingency of 5% instead of 7.5% due to reduced demolition and abatement costs. The group discussed that the \$1.25 million option would only stabilize the existing building without improvements or expansion, noting concerns about potential code compliance issues that could increase costs.

PBC Discussion and Possible Discussion

- A) Narrow focus of options to preferred direction (CIP, Renovate/Add in Place, New on Alt Site)
- B) Updated Schedule looking forward with Benchmarks Highlighted
- C) Plan to begin Public Input and presentations

The team reviewed a milestone schedule showing current progress and next steps, including community engagement opportunities and the need to select a preferred scheme before proceeding with design packages. The group discussed planning public information events about a fire station project, emphasizing the need to provide specific dates in advance for scheduling purposes. They agreed to organize an open house at the fire station followed by participation in a carnival event, tentatively scheduling the open house for June 12th or 20th. The discussion also covered creating a frequently asked questions document and potentially presenting to town groups like Rotary to provide context about the broader master plan, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for July 15th.

The group agreed to aim for estimates and cost information by mid-September, with a target meeting in July to make key decisions. The next regular meeting was scheduled for June 18th to discuss the school project, with the next firehouse meeting to be determined for either July 2nd or 9th.

Public Comment

Melissa Silva, 203 Ratley Rd
Annie Hornish, 864 Thrall Ave
Victoria Copes, 223 Hickory St

Adjournment

Chairman Goff entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Commissioner O’Hurley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Foley
Fire Commission Recording Secretary