What is the Process?

The Board of Commissioners of the Selkirk Fire District is in the process of finalizing a proposal for residents of the District to consider. This proposal will be based on both long term cost effectiveness and providing residents and volunteer firefighters with safe and modern resources from which the community can be protected.

Once the proposal is finalized and costs are estimated, the Board will be conducting an aggressive public outreach plan to make sure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to review the plan and ask questions. As a part of that process we will conduct public forums as well as hold other meetings. Once the community has had an opportunity to take a look at the project, a district-wide vote will be taken on the proposal, likely in the early spring of 2018.

For more information and ongoing updates, please visit our website at www.selkirkfd.org or send an email to selkirkfdproject@gmail.com
Continuing our Commitment
As a part of this building project process, we have begun meeting with neighbors, town officials and others to help educate about issues and get input about community needs. This is a once-in-a-generation project that needs to be done with forethought as to how the community is growing and residents’ needs for years to come. We are looking to include expanded community spaces in our project to provide civic groups with meeting space, a sorely needed asset in our community. The Department looks forward to more such input as the project moves forward.

Selkirk Fire District. Upgrading to Meet Community Needs

The Selkirk Fire District (SFD) is the largest in the Town of Bethlehem, encompassing nearly 2,500 homes and properties and 32 square miles. Since 1928, community volunteers have protected District residents’ lives and property. Today, nearly 90 years later, more than 50 volunteers in three fire stations within the District volunteer hundreds of hours of their time to be prepared for and to risk their own personal safety to protect their neighbors.

Over the years, the District has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community through, for example, expansion into three stations and upgrading those buildings over time. Unfortunately, those stations have reached their maximum lifespan and upgrading will actually cost more than building a new firehouse.

Why is the Project Needed?
The time has come for the residents of the Selkirk Fire District to invest in state-of-the-art fire stations which will last for generations to come. Protecting our community and our volunteer firefighters is critical to enable us to protect our residents.

All three current buildings have served their purpose well but are now operationally deficient and put our volunteer firefighters in potentially hazardous situations. Additionally, the buildings are not code compliant (for example, not handicap accessible) and lacking the proper amount of meeting, training and administrative space.

Protecting Our Community
Having modern facilities and equipment helps your volunteer firefighters to be best prepared to protect you when you are in need. Investing in this equipment is very important to providing ongoing safety.

Firefighting equipment has gotten more sophisticated over the years. This better enables our all-volunteer department to help protect the community. Unfortunately, with this modernization of equipment the size and weight of the vehicles has increased and, as such, the buildings need to be changed to allow for larger bays to fit the trucks and to provide for enough room for firefighters to get ready to respond to an incident.

Firefighter Safety and Recruitment
Attracting and retaining volunteer firefighters by providing them with a safe and modern operating environment is critical. Selkirk’s volunteer firefighters donate thousands of hours each year to prepare for and respond to neighbors in need. Putting them in harm’s way through improperly ventilated engine rooms which don’t have enough room in which to safely maneuver is simply unacceptable. To attract the next generation of volunteers to cost effectively protect our community, we must provide a safer environment.

Insufficient room to maneuver puts firefighters at risk when getting ready for a call

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