

Town of Milton

Fire Department History and Potential New Station Proposal

The Town of Milton has been exploring the possibility of relocating the Town Hall, Police, Court, and Fire Department structures, onto a vacant parcel of land off of High Street towards the south east corner of the Township.

Fire Department timeline and history:

Structure of the Fire Department: The current Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Milton and the Town of Milton provides a 50/50 ownership in the department. The Town of Milton has received no formal notice from the City that the current agreement will be terminated.

A secondary Intergovernmental Agreement is currently in place between the City of Janesville, City of Milton, and Town of Milton, to provide administrative services and a Fire Chief. On June 18th, 2021, Janesville initiated an opt-out of this agreement which will terminate December 31st, 2021.

Janesville, over the past year, has expressed concern about managing two different types of departments (full time versus combination volunteer and full time).

The Joint Fire Commission decided by a 4-2 vote to focus on the consolidation with Janesville and work on a draft of a potential agreement. The Commission appointed Chairman Meyer and Mayor Welch to work with Janesville City Manager Freitag and Janesville Fire Chief Rhodes to create a draft of an agreement. Once the 26-page draft agreement was made, each municipality agreed many changes were needed.

Prior to those changes taking place, Chairman Meyer was contacted by Manager Freitag. Freitag informed Meyer that the City of Milton had requested a draft exclusively for the City of Milton. As a result, the City of Janesville would no longer treat this agreement as one between two municipalities. Instead, it created two agreements drafted uniquely for each municipality. Despite the circumstance and original intent of the Commission, Chairman Meyer agreed to have a draft created for the Town of Milton.

Due to this major event and the language included in the draft of the agreement, the Town Board voted unanimously to simultaneously explore other service options, while waiting for a revised draft from Janesville. One reason for this decision was to protect the interests of the current contracted Townships who would not be addressed in the draft agreement with Janesville.

7-7-2021

At a City Council meeting, the City of Milton then chose to unilaterally pursue either a Consolidation with Janesville in the form of a contract for service or to provide a stand-alone fire department without other municipalities involved. These decisions by the City of Milton undermined the purpose of the Joint Fire Commission and its ability to make decisions on behalf of our shared Fire Department.

In response to the City of Milton's decision and in the looming event the Town might be left without fire protection, the Town of Milton decided to secure future options by purchasing land on the east side of the township off Highway 59. This land purchase could allow for a new Town Hall, Police Department, Court, and Fire Station facilities.

Due to the critical timeline and potential loss of Fire Protection services, the Town of Milton has aggressively pursued discussion with the Edgerton Fire District in attempts to provide long term, quality fire and EMS protection at an affordable rate. This has promoted the Town to contract services with Five Bugles Design Consultants for conceptual Town Hall, Police, Court, and Fire Station building plans on the newly purchased land.

The Town of Milton recognizes the frustrations historically expressed with the City of Milton Staff and Council relating to joint ownership of a Fire Department. The current concern for the Milton Fire Department is at the end of this year, there will be a need for a Fire Chief.

During the Fire Commission Meeting on March 17th, 2021, Town of Milton officials voted in favor of going into closed session to discuss ongoing Union Negotiations and the Intergovernmental Agreements in place, the City officials blocked the motion for closed session and the meeting was adjourned. These decisions by the City have further fostered a challenging relationship and low department morale.

The City of Milton has resisted conversations at the Fire Commission level regarding the Edgerton Fire District as a viable alternative to the Janesville Consolidation model. The Town of Milton has decided to explore the benefits of becoming a voting member of the Edgerton Fire District. The purpose of these discussions has been to provide essential Fire Department services to the Town of Milton with the highest level of care and quickest level of response at a reasonable cost.

The community and current fire department staff have clearly expressed displeasure with the current relationship between the City and Town, jeopardizing the moral within the department.

Fire Department Outlook and Forward Planning:

The Town of Milton, with the cooperation of neighboring Townships, has developed a long-term sustainable fire protection model.

This includes:

1. Petition for annexation into the Edgerton Fire District
2. Fire District membership would include 1 voting member serving on the Fire District Board.
3. Transitional model of current department operations until the end of 2022 to include the hiring of a Chief
4. Fire Station built on part of the acquired land
5. This station would have ability to service 3 neighboring Townships as well as the Town of Milton. Staffed with a combination of Full time, Paid on Call, Volunteers, and Interns.
6. Current fire personnel could have some level of employment at the new fire station

Cost and building layout are attached below.



ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

Project: Town of Milton Fire Station

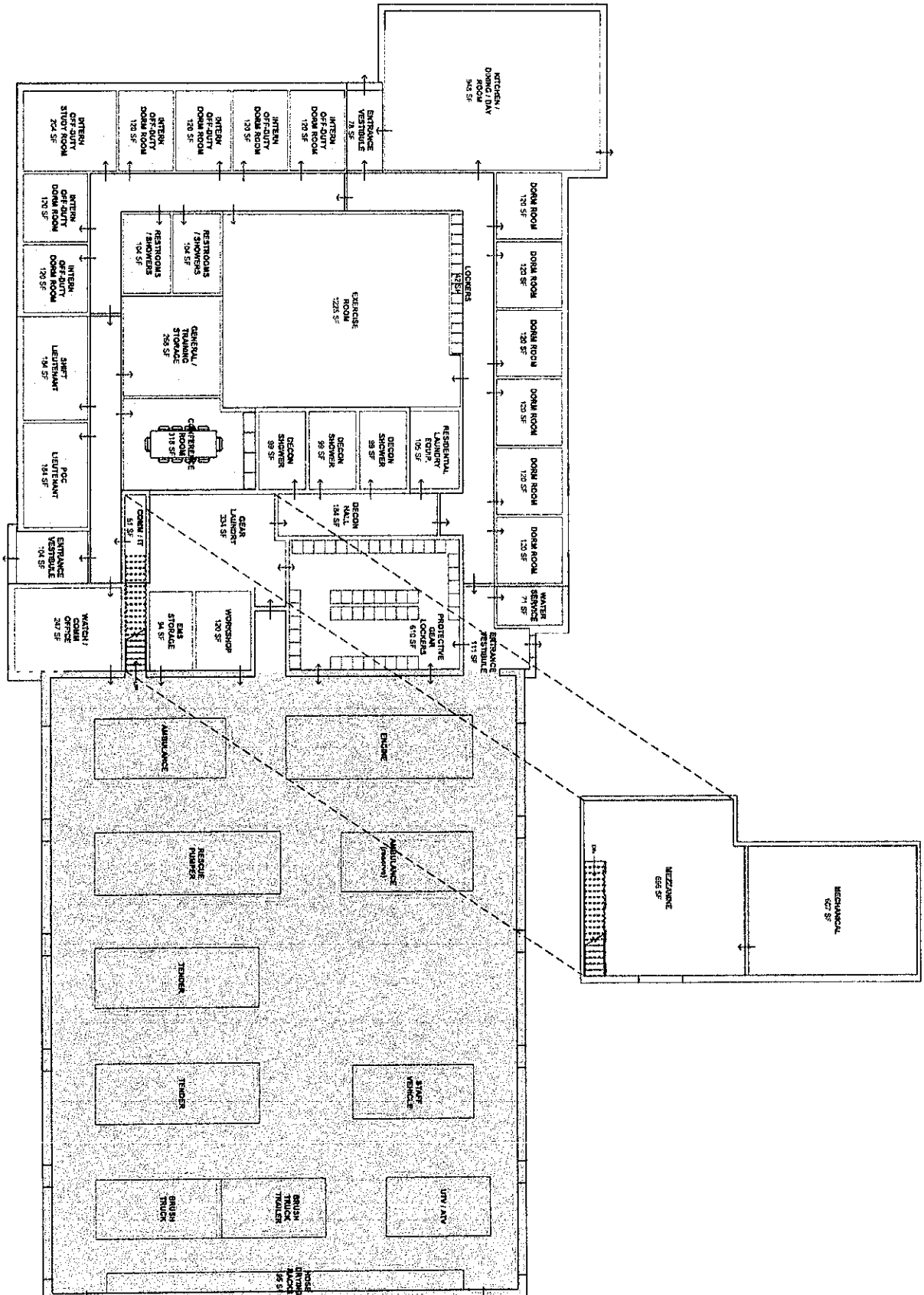
Location: Milton, WI

Date:

21-06-17

Potential Costs

				PROBABLE COST	ALTERNATE	Remarks
I. Site Acquisition						
Preferred Site				\$0	\$0	
Sub Total				\$0	\$0	
II. Building Construction Costs						
	Size (sf)		Cost/SF			
New Construction	19,345		\$285	\$5,513,325		
Sub Total				\$5,513,325	\$0	
III. Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment						
FF&E (estimated)				\$350,000	\$0	Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment, etc.
Specific Equipment by Owner				\$0	\$0	
Others				\$0	\$0	
Sub Total				\$350,000	\$0	
IV. Communications and Technology						
Communications				\$80,000	\$0	
Audio Visual Equipment	Allowance			\$15,000	\$0	
Sub Total				\$95,000	\$0	
V. Contingencies, Inflation and Other Costs						
Inflation Contingency	5% total construction cost			\$275,666	\$0	Inflation, Etc.
Design / Construction Contingency	10% of total construction costs			\$551,333	\$0	Design Changes, Unforeseen Conditions, Owner
Sub Total				\$826,999	\$0	
VI. Professional Fees and Legal						
Architectural/Engineering	7.0% of Construction Costs			\$385,933	\$0	
Geotechnical Studies				\$7,000	\$0	
Site Survey				\$7,000	\$0	
Unsuitable Soils Contingency				\$25,000	\$0	
Power to Site				\$0	\$0	
Fiber to Site				\$0	\$0	
Gas to Site				\$0	\$0	
LEED/Sustainability				\$0	\$0	
Hazardous Materials /Asbestos				\$0	\$0	
Testing and Inspections				\$25,000	\$0	
Sub-Total				\$449,933	\$0	
SUBTOTAL				\$0		
TOTAL BASE BID				\$7,235,257		



FUTURE ADDITION

APPARATUS BAY	=	8,429 SF
APPARATUS SUPPORT	=	3,018 SF
ADMINISTRATION	=	1,045 SF
STAFF SUPPORT	=	3,340 SF
INTERIEN	=	1,345 SF
CIRCULATION MECH	=	2,188 SF
TOTAL	=	19,345 SF