

Samantha Gray

Subject: RE: Proposed training facility

From: Dan Britko <dbritko@westfordma.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 8:35 AM

To: Jodi Ross <jross@westfordma.gov>

Cc: Joe Targ <jtarg@westfordma.gov>; Eric Heideman <eheideman@westfordma.gov>; Samantha Gray <sgray@westfordma.gov>

Subject: Proposed training facility

Good morning Jodi

I want to take this opportunity to clarify some key points and misunderstandings when comparing our existing concrete training facility behind 35 Town Farm Rd. and the proposed new training facility that we would be located on the Water Department property at 60 Forge Village Rd.

It was the intention by all members of the building committee and the town, that at the time of design and construction of the current facility, to design and build a structure that would be conducive to live training fire evolutions and in accordance with NFPA 1403 Standards at that time. At some point during that process, the appropriate concrete was not specified in the construction documents. Because of this, the town has been penalized because it thought it was paying for a state of the art training facility for its fire personnel which ultimately was not the case. I will also point out that we currently have a *Flash Over* trailer situated right behind the training facility that, with a little bit of work, can be fully functional once again.

The current training facility allows our personnel to conduct training evolutions with ground ladders, aerial ladder operations, search and rescue, confined space, roof venting operations, hose line advancement and much more.

The system that we are interested in is nothing more than a 2020 version of the previous fire training facility design incorporating today's NFPA 1403 standards for Fire Training facilities. It is a different look and constructed with different materials but does not provide us with any more training capabilities than we currently enjoy. I would also point out that the foot print of the Sable system is actually smaller than the foot print of the current facility, not including the flash over trailer. I believe that the sticker shock we are all trying to absorb is actually a result of all of the ancillary costs associated with the whole training site and not as a result of the sable or 2-box system which is only one component of the total cost. Current pricing of a reinforced poured concrete fire training facility ranges from \$300,000 – 1 Mil. depending on size and complexity.

In the opinion of Chief Targ and myself, the facility we are asking for is equivalent to what the Fire Department currently trains at.

Dan

- Deputy Chief Daniel Britko
- Westford Fire Department
- 65 Boston Road
- Westford, Ma. 01886
- Business Phone: 978-692-5542
- Fax: 978-399-2404
- Direct: 978-399-2823