

Greenville Fire & Safety Building Press Conference

May 7, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Good morning members of the press, media outlets and the general public. I want to thank you for attending today's press conference involving the upcoming referendum to construct and equip a new fire and safety building here in Greenville.



The Town of Greenville is one of the fastest growing communities in Wisconsin. The Town has more than doubled in size since 2000. Today's estimated population is 11,652 residents. Not only has the Town grown significantly in residential development, several major industries have located in Greenville. These businesses include Gulfstream, Jansport, Cintas, Plexus, Oshkosh Truck, Kimberly Clark, Valley Bakers and Badger Plug to name a few. The Town of Greenville is the third largest community in Outagamie County by equalized value at \$1.3 Billion dollars. The Town has a strong tradition of being fiscally responsible. This is evidenced by our low municipal tax rate.

Our current fire station was constructed in 1968. The Fire and EMS station no longer meets the needs of the department or our community and a new fire & safety building will significantly add to the safety of those who serve.

The needs and the challenges facing the Greenville Fire and EMS department and our community are not unique. The emergency vehicles have increased in size and complexity since the current fire station was built. The requirements and public expectations placed on our volunteer and full time fire and EMS personnel has increased dramatically over that same time period. The number of calls for service has increased and the environment in which we expect our emergency responders to work in has become

increasingly more dangerous. The incidence and risk of several types of cancers is significantly higher for emergency personnel who we rely upon to preserve both life and property of those who live or visit our community. The needs of this department has been well documented in studies dating back to 2010.

Here are some examples of identified deficiencies the new fire & safety building will address:

- Inadequate space to properly and efficiently maintain and decontaminate equipment & personnel which adds to the overall cost of each incident, the potential of damaging this equipment, and endangering the safety of personnel.
- Inadequate apparatus bay space to maintain and store all emergency vehicles needed under one roof which decreases efficiency and has the potential to increase response times and safety risks.
- Inadequate space to appropriately and safely store, don, and doff personal protective equipment.
- Inadequate training space to maximize the efficiency and overall safety of operations for personnel and the public served.
- Inadequate office and storage space for the day to day operations of a combination department comprised of 2 full-time professional officer/firefighters and 17 paid-on-call volunteer officers. Over 50 volunteer firefighter and/or first responders currently serve the Department.
- Inadequate parking for personnel during training or responding to emergencies. Conflicts arise during emergencies and the general public using the Town's adjacent yard waste site.
- Inadequate support facilities and gender specific restrooms and locker room facilities for personnel.

The Town conducted a previous referendum in 2015. This failed referendum included two other projects (Town Hall addition/renovation and Public Works improvements) for a total of \$10.5 million.

The current referendum being considered specifically addresses the needs of the Fire and EMS department independently for an estimated cost of \$6.5 million. The cost to construct a new modern fire station has been reduced and this new design will overcome current and future challenges of the department and community for well over the next 50 years. The majority of residents surveyed support the need for key aspects of this specific project.

The Referendum for a New Fire & Safety Building is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 2018 during the statewide Partisan Primary Election. Greenville voters will see the following question on their ballot:

“Shall the Town of Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 for the public purpose of financing the constructing and equipping of a new Fire and Safety Building?”

If the referendum is successful, a Special Town Meeting will be called by the Town Board for the purposes of authorizing the Town Board to purchase, lease or construct buildings for the use of the Town. The Special Town Meeting is required under Wisconsin State Law. Following a successful passage and approval, the Town, through professional consultation, will design, engineer bid and construct a new Fire & Safety Building. The goal is to have the new Fire & Safety Building operational in early 2020.

Thank you again for attending our press conference. The Town has provided additional information on the proposed station at our website, www.townofgreenville.com. We encourage you and members of the public to visit our site for further details.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this project. If you would like to gather photographs or video images of the current station we will be available afterwards.