

## **Proposal for a New Firehouse/Emergency Services Department FACT SHEET: Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

- The CLC was initiated and convened in May of 2019 by a member of the community to represent the varying views (half NO and half YES votes on the original new firehouse proposal) and to ensure that diverse views were fully represented to the BVFD in all planning related to the new firehouse project moving forward.
- The CLC is an entirely independent body from the BVFD; although the groups do work cooperatively together
  - Two CLC members have family members that are active members of the Bedford Fire Department; one CLC member has joined the department herself after her involvement in the CLC began; one CLC member (and previous NO voter) has just been elected to a seat on the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Bedford Village Fire District – his term will begin January 1, 2020. In his capacity as a Commissioner, he will not become a member of the Fire Department.
- The eight members were intentionally selected from a diverse applicant pool: the committee had to represent a broad cross-section of professional backgrounds and experiences, and be willing to contribute their opinions productively.
  - Professional backgrounds include architecture, construction, finance, community organizing, real estate, and engineering
- The group was restricted to 8 members so that conversations could be manageable and so everyone could be heard
- Members are below and can be contacted directly by emailing [CLCBFD@gmail.com](mailto:CLCBFD@gmail.com):

Kirtley Cameron  
Ellis Cousens  
Charles Goldman  
Joe McKenney

Mufit Cinali  
Christina Dochtermann  
Anna Kenoff  
Paul Thomasett

- The CLC identified their charge as:

1. Determine the viability of renovating the existing firehouse/emergency services department to meet state and industry codes and best practices; thereby precluding the need for an alternate site
  2. Should a new site be required, evaluate the process the BVFD used to select the location under discussion (550 Old Post Road), as well as any other potential sites
  3. Should a new firehouse be built, how can the design and construction most effectively mitigate the tax, town, and environmental impacts
- The CLC has issued two separate opinion pieces (September 2019 and December 2019) about the project. The conclusions expressed in those pieces are:
    1. **Remaining in the existing firehouse is operationally, logistically and financially not feasible.**
    2. **The cost of the new firehouse reflects fiscal prudence and is in-line with those of similar fire districts.**
    3. **The new design is in keeping with the aesthetic of the town, is responsive to the needs of the residents and will allow the BVFD to operate in a safe and responsive manner into the future.**
  - Copies of the CLC's opinion pieces can be obtained by emailing the CLC at [CLCBFD@gmail.com](mailto:CLCBFD@gmail.com)