



**YOUR VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS
DESERVE A MODERN
FIRE STATION THAT
PROTECTS THEIR
HEALTH AND SAFETY**

FIREFIGHTING IS A DANGEROUS JOB. A FIRE STATION SHOULD NOT BE DANGEROUS TOO.

Our volunteer fire fighters who put their lives on the line protecting your community should not have to work in a fire station that is dangerous to their safety and health. That's why we need your support for modernizing the current fire station on King Street.

On Tuesday, April 25 from 12 noon to 9 pm, the New Castle Fire District No. 1 will hold a bond referendum vote to authorize the Fire District to borrow funds for construction of a 13,000-square-foot addition to the current fire station in Chappaqua.

The modernization and expansion would provide the Fire Department with the space to accommodate modern emergency apparatus and equipment as well as decontamination facilities. It will also ensure the safety and health of the volunteer firefighters of the Chappaqua Fire Department. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$15.2 million with construction starting November 2023.

The current fire station, which was built in 1954 and expanded in 1979, is grossly inadequate to meet the legal requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requirements of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

As a result, current conditions expose Chappaqua and its taxpaying residents to costly litigation in the event of a serious accident or death of a volunteer firefighter.

The Fire District's proposal is not what the Fire Commissioners *want* but rather what they are *required* to provide under the law. The Fire District has been studying the fire station space needs for nearly 20 years. Since the project was first studied in 2003, construction costs have nearly tripled. The sooner this project begins, the better.

The current fire station bays are too small for today's larger and wider apparatus. The space between the modern fire-fighting apparatus in the fire station is less than 3 feet. A firefighter in gear can barely pass through the bay, creating a dangerous and potentially deadly situation. Studies recommend 8 feet between each piece of apparatus.

Having a modern and fully compliant fire station will help attract more volunteers. The New Castle Fire District No. 1 is having difficulty getting a sufficient number of volunteer firefighters. The Fire District would welcome anyone interested in being a volunteer firefighter.

The existing fire station in Chappaqua was built in 1954 and expanded in 1979. The proposed modernization project, as represented below, would provide the Fire Department with the space to accommodate modern emergency apparatus and equipment as well as decontamination facilities. It will also ensure the safety and health of the volunteer firefighters of the Chappaqua Fire Department.



SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS! VOTE ON APRIL 25TH!

TEN REASONS WHY WE NEED TO MODERNIZE OUR FIRE STATION

1

The World Health Organization has recently classified fire-fighting as a carcinogenic activity. Existing firehouse does not provide a healthy, safe, or practical workspace for the Chappaqua volunteer firefighters.

2

No facilities for firefighters to change/shower/decontaminate after fire calls.

3

No clean zones for firefighters' gear which is a huge health issue for the volunteers.

4

All of these health concerns make it more difficult to recruit volunteers.

5

Existing fire station is inadequate for the needs of the community and the volunteer force.

6

Full compliance with state mandates and industry standards is not possible in the existing spaces.

7

Current industry standard engines, ladder trucks, and tankers will not fit in the existing bays as the older pieces of apparatus age out of service, which is imminent.

8

Inadequate clearances around large apparatus; a safety issue for the volunteers. Inadequate storage for expensive and vital equipment.

9

Plan we will submit to the public has been well thought out over 20 years.

10

Plans were made in consultation with experts across the various fields including Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Traffic, Environmental Protection and NYS Fire Safety compliance.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BOND REFERENDUM VOTE

WHEN: Tuesday, April 25, 12 Noon – 9 PM
WHERE: Fire Station, 491 King Street, Chappaqua
WHO: Residents of the New Castle Fire District No. 1



For more information about the April 25 bond referendum vote and the proposed modernization project, please visit ncfd1.org

FACTS ABOUT THE MODERNIZATION

What is being proposed?

The Fire District has proposed building a 13,000-square-foot addition to the current fire station at 491 King Street in Chappaqua. This expansion would provide the Chappaqua Fire Department with the space to accommodate modern emergency apparatus and equipment as well as decontamination facilities. It will also ensure the safety and health of volunteer firefighters.

How much will the expansion cost?

Currently, the total cost is approximately \$15.2 million with construction to start November 2023. To reduce costs, the Board of Commissioners recently voted to not go forward with renovation of existing space and focus on the new addition. The reduction in cost is \$1,207,578 for not finishing the second floor of the firehouse addition and the reduction in cost is \$3,355,791 for not renovating the existing firehouse for a total reduction of \$4,563,369.

What does modernizing the fire station mean to me as a resident and taxpayer?

Think of having a modern, properly equipped fire department as an insurance policy. The value of your home and the cost of property insurance coverage is directly linked to the ability of your fire department to respond quickly and professionally should you have a fire or other emergency. Staffed by community volunteers who undergo hundreds of hours of training, this dedicated team also provides their neighbors an intangible benefit — peace of mind.

What is the impact on my tax bill?

Based on the 2022 average assessed value of \$178,508 for all taxable residential parcels in the Town of New Castle that are served by the New Castle Fire District, the estimated average annual tax increase would be \$282. For the parcels in the Town of Mount Pleasant served by the New Castle Fire District, the estimated annual increase would be projected at \$225. These estimates are subject to change based on interest rate and other market fluctuations. For the projected amount of your individual increase, visit the New Castle Fire District website at ncfd1.org for a list of every parcel in the New Castle Fire District in the Towns of New Castle and Mount Pleasant.

What's wrong with the current fire station?

The current fire station, which was built in 1954 and expanded in 1979, is grossly inadequate to meet the legal requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Americans with Disabilities Act. The Fire District's proposal is not what the Fire Commissioners WANT but rather what they are REQUIRED to provide under the law.

What other issues need to be addressed in the new fire station design?

When materials burn, they release a number of cancer-causing agents. Firefighters may also encounter other known carcinogens such as asbestos and diesel exhaust. Fire departments shall provide facilities for disinfecting, cleaning, and storage in accordance with NFPA. The current fire station does not have NFPA compliant equipment for disinfecting, cleaning and storage.

What other benefits are provided in the proposed addition?

There will be new equipment, turnout gear and hose storage areas; new maintenance rooms, as well as area for vehicle repair. There will be a new bunking area that meets FEMA safety and health guidelines of a minimum of 60 square feet of space per bed. There will be an elevator in the new addition to address ADA issues. A new mission control center and new offices will be included in the addition. The current office in the fire station isn't even wired for the internet!

What about the size of the apparatus bay?

The current fire station bays are too small for today's larger and wider apparatus. The space between the modern apparatus and the current fire station is too narrow. A firefighter in gear can barely pass through the bay, creating a dangerous and potentially deadly situation. Studies recommend 8 feet between each piece of apparatus.

What if the project is delayed?

From 2016 to 2022, new construction costs increased by 34%. Even by eliminating the renovation of the existing fire station, the construction cost increase is 20%. Since the project was first studied in 2003, construction costs have more than doubled. The sooner this project begins, the better.

Non-compliant Decontamination Equipment



Fire Station Bays Too Small for Today's Larger and Wider Fire Apparatus

