

What is the Process?

The Board of Commissioners of the Selkirk Fire District is in the process of finalizing a proposal for residents of the District to consider. This proposal will be based on both long term cost effectiveness and providing residents and volunteer firefighters with safe and modern resources so that the community can be protected. The final project will be the most cost effective approach based on the current and future needs of the District.

As a part of this process, we will continue meeting with neighbors, town officials and others to help explain the safety issues and to get your input. This is a once-in-a-generation project that needs to be done with forethought about how the community is growing and about residents' needs for years to come. We are looking to include expanded community spaces to provide civic groups with meeting space, a sorely needed asset in our community. We are also looking to work more closely with the Becker School. The Department looks forward to more such input as the project moves forward.

Once the proposal is finalized and costs are estimated, the Board will be conducting an aggressive public outreach plan to make sure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to review the plan and ask questions. As a part of that process we will conduct public forums as well as holding other meetings. Once the community has had an opportunity to take a look at the project, a district-wide vote will be taken on the proposal, likely later this summer.

For more information and ongoing updates,
please visit our website at

www.selkirktfd.org

or send an email to

selkirktfdproject@gmail.com



126 Maple Avenue
Selkirk, NY

The Selkirk Fire Department Building Project

Where We Are.
The Process Moving Forward.

STATION #1

126 Maple Avenue
Selkirk, NY

STATION #2

301 Glenmont Rd.
Glenmont, NY

STATION #3

480 Bridge Street
South Bethlehem, NY

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Fire Department
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Selkirk Fire Department. Upgrading to Meet Our Community's Needs for Today and The Future

The Selkirk Fire District (SFD) is the largest fire district in the Town of Bethlehem, encompassing nearly 2,500 homes and properties and 30 square miles – representing 60% of the Town of Bethlehem. Since 1928, community volunteers have protected District residents' lives and property. Today, nearly 90 years later, more than 50 volunteers in three fire stations within the District each volunteer hundreds of hours of their time to be prepared for and to risk their own personal safety to protect their neighbors.

Over the years, the District has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community through, for example, expansion into three stations and upgrading those buildings over time. Unfortunately, those stations have reached their maximum lifespan and upgrading will actually cost more than building new.

Why is the Project Needed?

The time has come for the residents of the Selkirk Fire District to invest in state-of-the-art fire stations which will last for generations to come. Protecting our community and our volunteer firefighters is critical to enable us to protect our residents.

All three current buildings have served their purpose well but are now operationally deficient and put our volunteer firefighters in potentially hazardous situations. Additionally, the buildings are not code compliant (for example, not handicap accessible) and lacking the proper amount of apparatus storage and operational, meeting, training and administrative space.

Protecting Our Community

Having modern facilities and equipment helps your volunteer firefighters to be best prepared to protect you when you are in need. And, investing in modern facilities will help maintain and protect our fire apparatus and equipment which is also very important to providing ongoing safety.

Firefighting equipment has gotten more sophisticated over the years. This better enables our all-volunteer department to protect the community. Unfortunately, with this modernization of equipment the size and weight of the vehicles has increased and, as such, the buildings need to be changed to allow for larger bays to fit the trucks and to provide for enough room for firefighters to get ready to respond to an incident at any time of the day or night.



Limited space for vehicles creates tight and dangerous spaces



Volunteers are forced to "sue up" next to the diesel exhaust, creating unhealthy and impermissible situations

Firefighter Safety and Recruitment

Attracting and retaining volunteer firefighters by providing them with a safe and modern operating environment is critical. Selkirk's volunteer firefighters each donate hundreds of hours each year to prepare for and respond to neighbors in need. Putting firefighters in harm's way through improperly ventilated engine rooms which don't have enough room in which to safely maneuver is simply unacceptable. To attract the next generation of volunteers and cost effectively protect our community, we must provide a safer environment.



Not enough clearance above vehicles puts volunteers in harm's way



Space limitations require volunteers to clean and service vehicles outside and nearly in the street