

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
FIREHOUSE FEASIBILITY GRANT HEARING  
October 21, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had the regular meeting on October 21, 2024 at the Town's Street garage due to the Union County Commissioners' Chambers being locked due to early voting.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Ross Keasling, Dereck Tipton and Jerry Kahl.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Greg Beumer, Kleinpeter Consulting; Todd Soprych, LWC; Deborah Webber, Mac Keasling, Bonnie Keasling, Jim Franklin, Cindy Spoljaric, Cindy Morgan, Matt Reuss, Ed Schulte and Jim Barnhizer.

**HEARING**

Mr. Bias recognized Greg Beumer of Kleinpeter Consulting and asked Mr. Beumer to mediate the hearing. Mr. Beumer informed the public in attendance that this was the second of two hearings required for the grant. Mr. Beumer then introduced Mr. Todd Soprych of LWC to present the findings. Mr. Soprych informed the public that LWC was selected as the architectural firm to perform the feasibility study of building a new firehouse per OCRA requirements. The firm worked with Collins Design Group who is a national leader in designing firehouses to meet certain standards. The current firehouse does not meet the national standards. The group started with 13 sites to consider for a new firehouse. It was then narrowed down to three. The first property is located on the north side of Town, south of the medical building. This property would not only include a firehouse but possibly the Town administrative offices as well. The second property considered was the old Woodruff's Square which is now known as Union Square. The third site was a hybrid of the firehouse being located at the first property with the administrative offices staying in its current location. The railroad crossings in town were considered when considering properties due to the possible delays that could occur if a train was coming through town at the same time of a run. Mr. Soprych explained that costs were not available at this time to the public who questioned the costs. Mr. Beumer addressed OCRA's process and how this procedure works. Mr. Beumer did address how funding works and that the building grant could be as much as \$ 750,000.00. The question was then posed if that amount would even make a dent in the construction costs? Mr. Soprych stated that if the building is built at the property to the north, a five bay firehouse could cost between \$ 1.5M-\$ 2.0M. If the building is built in town, keeping the construction to mirror the architecture of the Town's historical buildings, the cost could be between \$ 2.0M-\$3.0M. Mr. Soprych informed the Council that there are not contingency plans for other sites as it is rumored that the property south of the medical building has been sold and the Foundation who currently owns Union Square is planning on using that property for their own use and development.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Keasling and supported by Mr. Tipton the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST: Melissa Shepler  
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer

Keith Bias  
Keith Bias, President  
Dereck Tipton, Vice President