



NORTH CHATHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

45 MORRIS ROAD

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Date: January 20, 2021

To: William Judson

From: John Strowd

Ref: Refinance Fire Department Loan and Station Renovations

Dear Billy,

I wanted to follow up from our phone conversation yesterday, as the fire department is refinancing our loans and securing additional loan money for Station improvements. We are requesting permission to hold a public hearing at North Chatham Station 1 as part of the process of securing the loan.

Current Loans range from 3.0 percent to 3.7 percent and to reduce the number of 20 year bi-annual payments to 10 years and 5 years bi-annual payments.

The department has the opportunity to refinance \$5.9 million at a fixed rate of 2.48 percent for 10 years, \$418,000 for 5 years at 1.60 percent and borrow up to an additional \$2,000,000 for Station improvements, if needed.

If the additional amount is borrowed plans are being researched for the following:

1. Add additional bays to North Chatham Station 2 and living quarters for staffing. The Station is 21 years old and current living quarters are the same from 2000 when only a couple of career staff personnel were assigned to the station. Currently with full staffing, there are 18 personnel on duty with 4 personnel on the Administration staff. The department has maximized our current living quarters with normally 4 or 5 personnel on duty at North Chatham Station 2 located at 1442 Fearrington Point Road.
2. Currently at North Chatham Station 1, located at 45 Morris road; the kitchen area is the same space as from 1968 when Station 1 was built. With personnel living in the Station 1 - 24hours a day 7 days a week with 7 personnel during the day, space is a prime commodity. Looking at renovation kitchen and day room area.

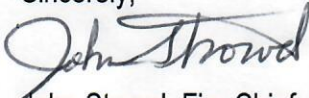
With Station 1, Station 2 and all of our Stations, COVID 19 has brought many unexpected issues to light. As you know with Emergency Services, our personnel live in the same building, and serve the public with fire, medical or rescue services in the North Chatham Fire District, along with dive and Swiftwater support throughout the County. Our services have continued through the pandemic with issues from limited PPE to trying to making living arrangements in the Station as safe as possible. It is hard to social distance in a common bunk area or eat at table with 4 people, when there should only be 2. Moving forward we have learned a lot from COVID 19, and like everyone, we have put a lot of safety precautions in place, as our roles have not changed and like many others; waiting for the vaccine to offer additional protection to our personnel and families. It has not been easy to say the least.

3. Evaluating cement pad at North Chatham Station 19, located at 258 Seaforth Road next to the new high school. Present issue at this Station, whether cement pad and driveway will need replacing which is being evaluated by an Engineering Firm.

Our request for refinancing is to lower our interest rate and shortening our loan terms, along with looking at possibly 3 building projects over the course of the next 18 months. An additional accomplishment, prior to COVID 19 pandemic; North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department achieved an ISO Class 4 Insurance Rating, one of the lowest, if not the lowest in Chatham County.

Please call with any questions or additional information requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Strowd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Strowd".

John Strowd, Fire Chief
North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department