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May 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Tuneski,

I understand that the project architect, SPA, is nearing completion of the final design drawings for the new Town Fire Station. With that in mind, I respectfully request that you ask the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee to work with Downes, the Project Manager, to prepare a detailed cost estimate for the new facility based on SPA's completed plans.

Having a current and comprehensive estimate will ensure that the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee, the Board of Selectmen (BOS), the Board of Finance (BOF), and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) have the most accurate and transparent information available to guide their decision-making, particularly regarding potential bonding for the project. From what I understand, Downes' estimate should be ready in the second half of June.

In the interest of due diligence and fiscal responsibility, I intend to propose to the Board of Selectmen tonight that we table the bonding resolution until these updated figures are available. I will also encourage both the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting to do the same. A decision of this financial scale requires careful consideration, and we owe it to the taxpayers of Waterford to proceed with the clearest possible understanding of the costs involved.

Please also extend, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the residents of Waterford, our sincere gratitude to the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee. The dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the Committee through nearly fifty meetings over the past two and a half years is deeply appreciated.

With Thanks,

Robert Brule, First Selectman

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