



Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Meeting

May 6, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Robert Tuneski, Rocco Bracciale, Wayne Gilpin, Ted Olynciw, Richard Muckle, Paul Rafuse, Matthew Blankenship

Members Absent: Guy Russo, Jennifer Bracciale

Guests: Steve Smith, Shea Davy, Abbas Danesh

1. Public Comment: None

2. Opening Remarks: B. Tuneski stated the traffic light is under re-consideration by the Chief of Police. If the line of sight can be established by eliminating some trees, he may change his position on requiring a traffic signal.

P. Rafuse reminded the committee that they had voted to keep the light at a previous meeting. Action on this vote will be held until a determination from the Chief of Police is obtained.

P. Rafuse asked if the Station Alerting System had been discussed during the 4/15/25 meeting when Steve Sinagra was present. It was not.

T. Olynciw read a statement to the committee. (Attachment I)

3. Approval of meeting minutes:

MOTION by T. Olynciw, second by R. Muckle to accept the 4/15/25 meeting minutes.

FOR: B. Tuneski, T. Olynciw, R. Bracciale, R. Muckle, W. Gilpin

ABSTAIN: M. Blankenship, P. Rafuse

4. Approval of Invoices:

MOTION by P. Rafuse, second by R. Bracciale to pay the Downes invoice, \$6,320.00 and the SPA invoice, \$148,517.20

R. Muckle requested an explanation of the percentages on the Downes invoice. The Percent Complete is where the Preconstruction stands. The 22.25% refers to where billing stands.

T. Olynciw asked S. Smith if the contract was based on a cost plus, not to exceed a specific amount. S. Smith will have to refer to the contract, which was not available to him at that time. The Downes contract will be made available at the next scheduled meeting.

FOR: B. Tuneski, R. Bracciale, R. Muckle, W. Gilpin, M. Blankenship, P. Rafuse
AGAINST: T. Olynciw

5. Old Business:

S. Smith provided a **"DRAFT"** Control Budget to the committee. (Attachment 2) Funds already spent are hard numbers. All other numbers are projected based on calculations and experience.

B. Tuneski spoke with the Finance Director – the intent is to present the bonding resolution at the June meeting of the RTM. B. Tuneski informed her the committee had decided on having hard bid numbers for the bonding process. He was told this was not how it was going to be done. Rather the director will present a projected amount.

T. Olynciw voiced his concern regarding the project being on schedule. S. Smith and B. Tuneski reassured him that everything is on schedule at this time. R. Muckle stressed the need for an updated schedule be available at every meeting. S. Smith will provide this.

7. Current Business:

Residential vs. Commercial Kitchen

P. Rafuse expressed the need for a commercial kitchen as it is better quality.

MOTION by W. Gilpin, second by M. Blankenship to install a commercial kitchen.

FOR: Unanimous

T. Olynciw left the meeting at approximately 7:25pm

8. New Business:

B. Tuneski suggested changing the committee meeting dates to from the 1st and 3rd Tuesday to the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

MOTION by W. Gilpin, second by M. Blankenship to change the meetings from the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month to the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month beginning in June 2025.

FOR: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Finnegan, Recording Secretary

May, 5, 2025

Mr. Robert Tuneski, Chairman

Oswegatchie Fire House Building Committee

Dear Bob,

The Committee started meeting 2 years ago, then hired SP&A as our architectural & engineering design firm about a year ago and a few months after that retained the services of Downs Construction as our Project Manager.

You will recall, along with all the other members of this building committee, how I gave a very strong recommendation to select SP& A and Downs Construction to serve as a team to design the new Fire House.

However, I believe that our consultants have neglected to previously address a very important issue, the cost of a new traffic light. During the past 12 months the traffic light issue has been discussed many, many times. Last month, only a month before we will be going out to bid, we were informed by our consultants that the cost of the new traffic light will cost about ½ million dollars. Had we known the cost before now we may have developed a floor plan that would allow us the use of the existing traffic light, but we were not given that opportunity.

This lack of obtaining this information, which is a major cost item, this late in the design process, is inexcusable. Both consulting firms have years of experience in designing and constructing fire stations and should have provided this information at the beginning of the design process.

The fact is we are not too late to consider options if the committee agrees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Olynciw', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ted Olynciw, RTM Rep to this Committee

Approved Project Budget	\$12,000,000.00
Total Estimated Project Budget	\$12,000,000.00
Total Current Funding	\$12,000,000.00

Last Update: 5/6/2025