

Dear Neighbor,

Our current Fire Station #1 has been in service since 1967. The building has served us well but is now outdated and has safety and health issues, and on-going maintenance and repair needs. It is too small to house our modern apparatus, allow for safe turn out for calls, lacks sufficient environmental controls and storage. It does not conform to current building codes, is not ADA compliant and is energy inefficient. The Slingerlands Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners has developed a plan to renovate and expand Slingerlands Fire Station #1 to meet structural, safety and regulatory requirements, and to improve facility functionality and efficiency.

Recognizing the need for major repairs and capital improvements, the Board of Fire Commissioners evaluated the best course of action for dealing with the current issues and the future needs of the District. We found the renovation and expansion of the current facility was the most cost effective option. By renovating the existing portion of the structure and adding on only what is necessary this proposal represents the best long term value for the Slingerlands Fire District and the most responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

The Slingerlands Fire Station #1 is critical to our operations. The demographics of our District have changed substantially since the station was originally constructed. Commercial developments such as the Price Chopper Plaza, the Route 85 re-alignment, proposed Vista subdivision, and higher density residential apartments have changed and continue to change the requirements of the Fire District and our personnel. The recent Manitou Collaborative Planning Study has shown that the station is centrally located in the best position to serve our District with effective response times.

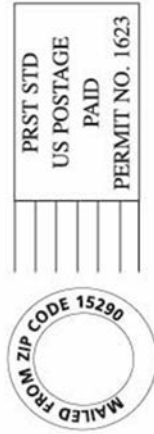
It is the mission of the Slingerlands Fire District to provide the highest standard of fire protection and rescue services, for our residents, and to provide our volunteer firefighters with the proper equipment and a safe and secure fire station. We want to continue providing this level of service to our district and being prepared to meet the future growth and needs of our community.

The proposed expansion and renovation of the existing station will provide a safe facility for our volunteer firefighters and our community; providing more efficient operations and room to meet our districts continued growth.

Sincerely,

The Slingerlands Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners

Walter Eck Jr., Roger Griffiths, John Flanigan, Ryan McConky, Earl Lenhardt



**Slingerlands Fire District
1520 New Scotland Road
Slingerlands, NY 12159**



Information on the Proposed Slingerlands Fire Station #1 Expansion & Renovation

Proposed Expansion and Renovation Project



November 16, 2011

Public Information Meeting - 7pm

Slingerlands Fire Station #1, 1520 New Scotland Rd,
Slingerlands, NY

December 13, 2011

6pm – 9pm

**Slingerlands Fire Station #1 Expansion and
Renovation**

Fire District Bond Referendum Vote

Slingerlands Fire Station #1, 1520 New Scotland Road,
Slingerlands, NY



The Slingerlands Fire District Fire Station #1 has been in service since 1967, and has outlived its usefulness at its current size. It has ongoing maintenance issues, is energy inefficient, and does not meet current code standards. The facility no longer meets the needs and requirements of our growing Fire District.

The current structure:

- The apparatus bays do not safely accommodate the fire apparatus that meet current NFPA codes.
- Our current apparatus bays do not provide the required three foot clearance around apparatus in the bays.
- Firefighters currently don their turnout gear in the bays in close proximity to the apparatus.
- The apparatus bays do not have any means of evacuating the diesel exhaust fumes which are a leading cause of cancer, respiratory disease and heart disease.
- The roof/outer wall have several leaks which have been repaired numerous times, but continue to deteriorate.
- Current radio room is internal to the building and has poor visibility of apparatus and traffic.
- Apparatus bays lack a recovery drainage system as required by current environmental standards.
- No decontamination station or showers to ensure personnel are properly decontaminated after returning from fire and HazMat calls.
- No ready room for personnel on stand-by or staged for an incident. During Hurricane Irene personnel sat on the stairs or outside on the bench in the elements.

The Station has a shortage of storage room and inadequate work area:

- We have inadequate storage for firematic equipment including hose, pumps and miscellaneous equipment. Currently these are stored in a non-climate controlled shed.
- There is no sufficient maintenance area in the building, only a small bench. It is difficult at best to properly maintain district property adequately.
- Additional room is needed for required records, uniform and radio storage.



The proposed expansion and renovation of the Slingerlands Fire District Fire Station #1 is designed to improve functionality, safety and efficiency; while meeting regulatory requirements.

The proposed Expansion and Renovation of Slingerlands Fire Station #1:

- Has apparatus bays sized to meet current and future equipment needs.
- Has adequate room for safe firematic operations.
- Is ADA compliant and handicap accessible.
- Is energy efficient and more environmentally sound.
- Provides improved safety for our volunteer firefighters.
- Remains centrally located at 1520 New Scotland Road.

Expansion

The fire station will be expanded with the addition of two more bays designed to hold shorter apparatus such as an ambulance on stand-by or the district utility vehicles. In addition a new radio room and ready room will be added.

- Two entrances on the east side will provide immediate access from the parking lot for first responders.
- A decontamination area will contain a shower, eye wash station and privacy curtain for personnel requiring decontamination.
- A laundry area will be adjacent to the decontamination area providing a gear washer and drying system.
- Adjacent to the laundry area will be a secured storage area for firefighting turnout gear, boots, helmets, etc.
- A maintenance area with adequate work bench space and tool storage will be added to the rear of the western apparatus bay.
- A locked storage area for spare firematic equipment will be added adjacent to the maintenance area.
- A new radio room will be added to the front of the building between the existing bays and the new bays providing expanded communications as well as proper visibility for traffic control.

Renovation

- The existing fire station will be renovated and a new public entrance lobby will be constructed on the east side of the building.
- The existing bays will be extended to provide the proper clearance around the apparatus.
- The current portico will be enclosed and will house the majority of the gear lockers providing a safe place for firefighters to don their gear.
- A new floor will be installed with radiant heat for energy efficiency and trench drains meeting required environmental controls.
- The existing roof will have new SIP panels installed over the top increasing the R value and improving energy efficiency through reduced heat loss.

How much will the Proposed Expansion and Renovation cost?

The projected 'not-to-exceed' costs for the project are:

- Design & Construction \$1,680,000
- Site Work, Equipment & fit-up \$ 85,000
- Legal, Financing, Admin Fees \$ 35,000
- Total to be funded: **\$1,800,000**

Capital funding for the project will require Bond funding, and a District Bond referendum vote to approve the funding.

What is the estimated cost impact?

The Slingerlands Fire District covers portion of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland in Albany County.

- The tax rates are different in each of the two towns served, and are calculated based on assessed value and equalization rates of each town.

On a projected 15 year bond, 4.50% rate, the estimated tax impact is:

Town	Current Tax Levy Per 1000	Proposed Tax Levy increase Per 1000	Proposed Total Tax Levy	Average Assessed Value	Estimated Average Tax Increase
Bethlehem	0.7531	0.3064	1.0595	\$256,000	\$78.44
New Scotland	0.8733	0.1975	1.0708	\$247,788	\$48.94

New Tax rate, if Bond Funding is approved, would not apply before 2013.

About the Slingerlands Fire Department

The members of the Slingerlands Fire Department are your neighbors and fellow residents who volunteer to protect lives and property through quality emergency response and dedicated service in fire prevention, fire suppression, rescue, and natural disaster response.

These dedicated volunteers undergo year round training to be ready for all types of emergencies, from pump outs to major automobile accidents, heavy/technical rescue, and structure fires. Our volunteers are on call and available for duty 24 hours a day, every day of the year, ready to answer your call, and serve the Slingerlands Fire District.

In 2010 we responded to calls for service 224 times, and our members provided 3,704 man hours of service. So far in 2011 we have answered over 219 calls, with over 60 calls for Hurricane Irene alone.

