



TOWN OF CONCORD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Concord Votes at Town Meeting on Funding to Purchase New Fire Truck

DATE: February 22, 2019

CONCORD, VT. – Residents of the Town of Concord will vote by Australian ballot vote on March 5, 2019 to authorize the Concord Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 to partially fund the purchase of a new fire truck costing approximately \$300,000.00. The purchase will be for a new Pumper Fire Truck with side control midship pump. The new fire truck will replace the 1998 truck now in service.

“Having adequate equipment to protect people and property in the unfortunate event of a fire is critically important. The current fire truck continues to have mechanical issues that are expensive to repair, as of January 31 we are \$2,100.00 over what we had budgeted for the year and we still have 5 months to go in this budget. With a new fire truck, the crew can focus on readiness for when they are needed.” explained Concord Fire Chief Richard Fisher.

Funding for the truck will come from multiple sources with borrowing being a last option. The town annually sets aside Reserve Funds for future equipment purchases. The Fire Department Reserve Fund has \$89,720.00 currently available and will be increased by \$15,000.00 if the 2020 Budget is approved. The current fire truck, which will be sold or traded, is worth an estimated \$15,000.00. The town has contracted with Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to apply for multiple upcoming grant opportunities that total \$250,000.00 if all grants are awarded. Borrowing for the new fire truck purchase will be used after all other funding options are evaluated.

George Morehouse, Concord Selectboard Chairperson, expressed, “Making fiscally responsible decisions is a focus of the Selectboard. It takes time and resources to apply for grant funding, however there are opportunities to support small towns like Concord and we try to utilize grant funding whenever it is available and appropriate.”

An informational meeting was held at the Concord School main floor conference room on Saturday, February 23rd and the full town report is available at www.concordvt.us. Community members are encouraged to ask questions about the upcoming vote.