



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

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November 16, 2011

Dear Residents:

The Town of Mesilla is considering placing a bond measure on the March 2012 ballot to address high priority repairs and renovations to our existing fire/police station and to replace outdated equipment and apparatus. The improvements would benefit our residents, firefighters of the Mesilla Fire Department and deputies of the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

Forty-year-old fire/police station plagued by code violations

The town's fire/police station was constructed in phases dating back to 1970. The aging facility has numerous code violations associated with heating and ventilation, electrical, outdated fire alarm system, interior and exterior lighting, and plumbing. The fire/police station is also NOT fire sprinklered.

No place to properly hold persons arrested and other access/security issues

The fire/police station also does not have a secure area for holding persons being processed after being arrested. This has led to altercations with prisoners and injuries to deputies. There is also a need for access control improvements to ensure the security of evidence, property and records for the Marshal's Department.

It's about the safety of our emergency responders

The proposed repairs and renovations would provide a much safer and healthier work environment for our firefighters and deputies of the Marshal's Department. Our emergency responders currently deal with extremes of heat, cold, exhaust fumes, mold and other health hazards. A secure holding area for persons arrested would also address critical safety issues for deputies.

It's about the safety of our citizens

Like many towns and fire districts, the Town of Mesilla is struggling to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This is driven in large part by the poor condition of our fire station. Our volunteer firefighters would be much more willing to spend time on the grounds and also to participate in overnight shifts with a more suitable facility void of mold, exhaust fumes, etc. With more volunteers on site, coverage would increase and response times would decrease. Furthermore, having a secure area for persons arrested also reduces safety and security problems for citizens visiting the fire/police station.

Proposed bond measure would also fund the replacement of outdated pumper trucks and mission critical equipment

The Mesilla Fire Department needs to replace its aging Type 1 pumper trucks. Both trucks have no foam suppression capability, do not carry the recommended six firefighters, do not have air-conditioning to help rehabilitate firefighters during fire calls and also lack storage areas for hard suction lines and other

critical tools and equipment. The aging pumper trucks are also becoming extremely expensive to maintain. Aging nozzles, attack hose lines and self-contained breathing apparatus also need to be replaced.

Plan calls for repairs and renovations versus new building—a less expensive option

The architects retained to conduct a facilities audit have determined that it would be less expensive to repair and renovate the fire/police station than to build a new fire/police station.

Addressing energy inefficiencies

In addition to addressing critical health, safety and security issues, proposed improvements to the fire/police station will make it much more energy efficient, helping to reduce operating costs in both the short- and long-term.

Four-phase approach to improvements

The proposed plan calls for the repairs and renovations to be implemented in four phases.

Phase 1 would consist of reroofing the facility, insulating the roof, repairing the ceilings, mechanical system overhaul and electrical system upgrades. Phase 2 includes remodeling the existing restrooms into a required ADA unisex restroom. Replacing the existing exterior doors, installing energy efficient components on doors and windows, and bringing interior doors to code compliance would be address in Phase 3. And in Phase 4, a transformer and electrical equipment would be installed to provide emergency generated power to the public safety facility.

Maintaining (or improving) the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating to benefit property insurance premiums

The Town's ISO rating is an important variable that insurance companies take into account when establishing property insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties. The Town's current ISO rating is a 5 on a scale of 10, with a lower number being the better score. Addressing high priority apparatus and equipment needs is essential to maintaining—or even improving—our rating.

Modest investment with significant benefits

The estimated monthly tax impact of the proposed \$1.5 million, 15-year bond issue is \$5.78 per \$100,000 of a home's market value.

Your input matters

The Town Council will not take formal action to place a bond question on the March 2012 ballot until December 2011, providing sufficient time for additional public input. A significant amount of planning has gone into the proposed fire/police station improvements, however, nothing is set in stone at this point.

We urge you to participate in our upcoming community opinion survey which you will receive in the mail. Your thoughts and recommendations on the proposed improvements and bond package are greatly appreciated.

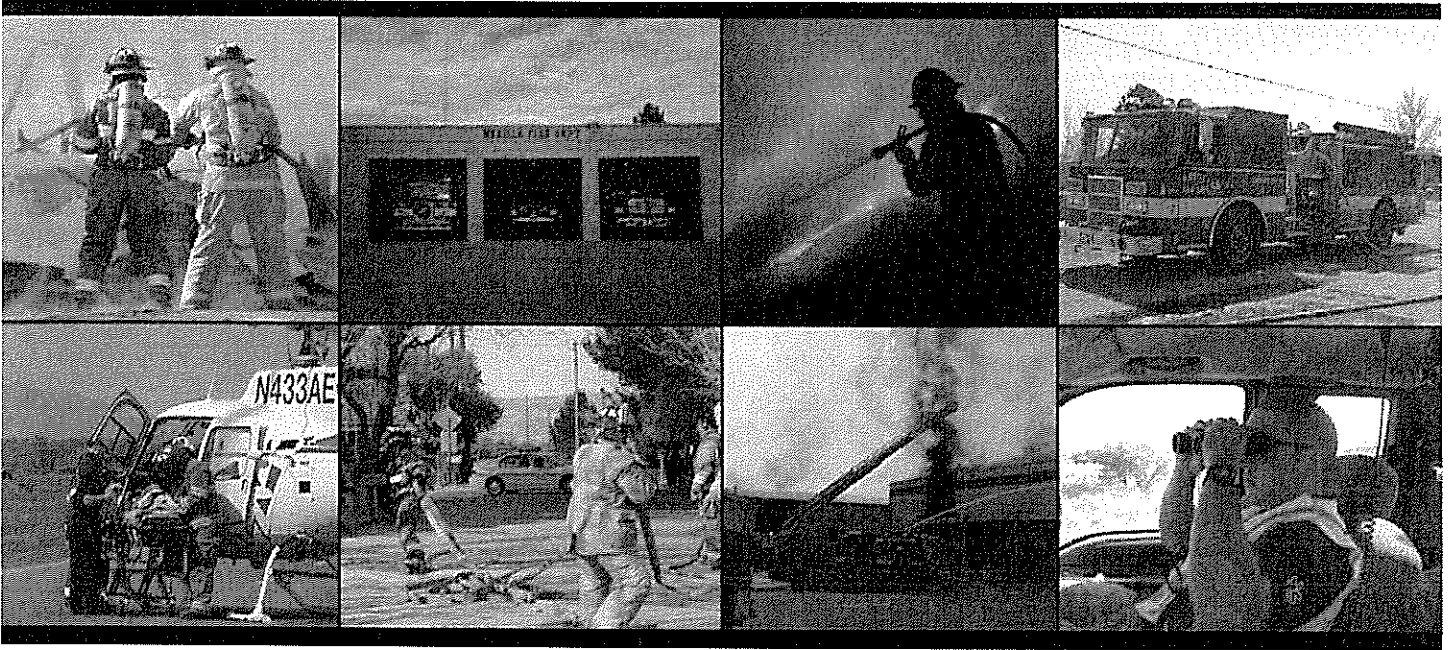
Thank you for taking the time to review this information.

Sincerely,

Nora L. Barraza
Mayor
Town of Mesilla
575-524-3262 x106

Kevin Hoban
Fire Chief
Mesilla Fire Department
575-523-1311

Jeff Gray
Marshal
Mesilla Marshal's Department
575-526-4138



The Town of Mesilla's 40-year-old fire/police station is plagued by code violations and in need of repairs and renovations. The fire district's pumper trucks, breathing apparatus and other mission-critical apparatus/equipment have also reached the end of their useful life. The Town Council is considering placing a \$1.5 million bond measure on the March 2012 ballot to address these high priority needs.

Town of Mesilla seeks community's input on proposed bond issue to renovate fire/police station and replace outdated apparatus and equipment

The Town of Mesilla is considering placing a \$1.5 million bond measure on the March 2012 ballot to address high priority repairs and renovations to our existing 40-year-old fire/police station. The proceeds of the bond issue would also be used to replaced outdated equipment and apparatus.

The town's fire/police station was constructed in phases dating back to 1970. The station has numerous code violations associated with heating and ventilation, electrical, outdated fire alarm system, interior and exterior lighting, and plumbing. The station is also not fire sprinklered.

Repairs and renovations to the fire/police station would provide a much safer and healthier work environment for our firefighters and deputies. Our emergency responders currently deal with extremes of heat, cold, exhaust fumes, mold and other health hazards.

There is currently no place at the fire/police station to properly hold persons who are arrested. The proposed bond issue would provide for a more secure holding area, which would protect both our deputies and citizens. Access control improvements would also be addressed to ensure the security of evidence, property and records for the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

Repairs and renovations to address pressing health and safety issues at the town's fire/police station would significantly improve our ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. These improvements would also increase coverage and response times. Our volunteer firefighters would be much more willing to spend time on the grounds and also to participate in overnight shifts with a more suitable facility.

In addition to addressing health and safety issues at the fire/police station, the Mesilla Fire Department needs to replace its aging Type 1 pumper trucks. Both trucks have no foam suppression capability, do not carry the recommended six firefighters, do not have air-conditioning to help rehabilitate firefighters during fire calls and also lack storage areas for hard suction lines and other critical tools and equipment. The aging pumper trucks are becoming extremely expensive to maintain.

Aging nozzles, attack hose lines and self-contained breathing apparatus also need to be replaced.

The Town Council will not take formal action to place a bond measure on the March 2012 ballot until additional public input is received.

"You have the final word on how we proceed in addressing our highest priority facility, apparatus and equipment needs. Your participation in this community opinion survey is greatly appreciated."

— Nora L. Barraza, Mayor, Town of Mesilla

This goal of this bond is to rehabilitate and upgrade the Town of Mesilla's only fire station. This building was constructed in phases beginning in 1970.

Funding for this project would provide a safer and healthier environment for firefighters, deputies and others using the building as well as the public who conducts business here. Furthermore our volunteer firefighters would spend more time in the station and be willing to pull overnight shifts knowing they had a proper facility to live and operate in. This would lead to improved response times and coverage for the community and aid in our recruiting and retention efforts.

Should the project not be funded, the building will continue to deteriorate, expose first responders and others to extremes of heat, cold, exhaust fumes, mold and other health hazards and will eventually become uninhabitable.

SUMMARY OF CODE VIOLATIONS:

- Existing lighting does not meet International Energy Conservation Code
- Emergency interior lighting does not meet National Electrical Code
- Emergency exterior emergency egress lighting does not meet National Electrical Code
- Emergency exit signage does not meet National Fire Protection Code
- Existing Fire Alarm System does not meet National Fire Protection Code
- Wiring from Panel L to attic does not meet National Electrical Code
- J-Box from outside panel does not meet National Electrical Code
- Public Works Maintenance Garage 50A plug and 20A receptacle do not meet National Electrical Code
- Power wiring to pole mounted siren does not meet National Electrical Code
- Outside receptacles do not meet National Electrical Code
- Gas fired unit heaters in Fire Station Garage do not meet Uniform Mechanical Code
- Fire Station Garage does not have an exhaust system in violation of the Uniform Mechanical Code and OSHA regulations
- The three gas fired furnaces do not provide fresh air to the building in violation of the Uniform Mechanical Code
- The gas fired water heater is in violation of the Uniform Plumbing Code
- Public Works Maintenance Garage is in violation of the International Energy Conservation Code
- Public Works Maintenance Garage is lacking an exhaust system in violation of the Uniform Mechanical Code and OSHA regulations
- The building plumbing is lacking a backflow prevention device in violation of the Uniform Plumbing Code
- The kitchen ventilation hood is in violation of the Uniform Mechanical Code
- Further structural investigation will determine if there are violations of the International Building Code
- Station lacks a fire sprinkler system in violation of National Fire Protection Association standards
- Station lacks a building wide fire alarm system in violation of International Fire Code.