

**East Freehold Fire House**  
**Let's build it now...**  
**Here's Why**

- We need to grow as the Township has grown.
  - In 1970 the population in Freehold Township was 13,185, in 1980 it had grown to over 19,000, and today it is almost 36,000. Our Fire station has stayed the same size.
- In the past 20 years we have seen many new developments at Sheffield, Four Maples, Seven Oaks, Avalon, Tiverton, Countryview, as well as strip malls and car dealerships, up and down route 9, all located in our Fire District, district 2.
- The membership of the East Freehold Fire Company has grown from 23 original members to over 67 current members.
  - The parking lot is not large enough to accommodate all of our members.
  - The offices used by the 5 Executive Officers, the 5 Line Officers and the 5 Commissioners are insufficient. The available offices cannot support 15 people.
- Severe weather in the past ten years has required a new approach to readiness and community service.
  - Members, frequently, are required to sleep at the fire station, during storms and civil unrest, and the current station does not have sufficient room or facilities.
  - We need to be able to support the needs of our residents during these events, by creating a safe place where they can go.
- Our dedicated members deserve to have a safe work environment.
  - Traffic patterns around the current fire station have been contributing factors in numerous “near misses” with our fire trucks and personal vehicles.
- Our members need to have a place where they can shower, and change clothes, after a fire call, so they don't bring hazards home in their personal vehicles.
- As everything else has grown, so have our fire trucks, and most of our trucks barely fit into our building. It is very dangerous when the volunteers are trying to enter the property to respond to a call, as a truck is pulling out of the bay area. The increasing size of the trucks is due largely to our expanded mission statement.
- There is very little, to no storage in our building, right now, forcing the fire company to store fuel and chemicals in close proximity to the protective gear the members must wear.
- The old building does not meet the standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Everything else in the Township has grown: population, schools, police department, public works, roads; it's time for us to grow too. Western Monmouth county has also grown, and the local fire companies have responded.
- Almost all of our surrounding fire companies have expanded:
  - Freehold Independent put up a new building on Georgia Road, and is in the process of expanding their Stillwells corner station.
  - Freehold Boro put up a new building in the back of their property.
  - Adelpia constructed a new building on Rt 33
  - Gordons Corner Expanded their building.
  - Englishtown put up a new building.
  - Millhurst built a new building
  - Colts Neck put up a new building
- Now is the time to do this, construction costs are low, and the contractors are hungry for work. We have an efficient, intelligent plan in place to minimize costs.
- The plan is to fund this project over a 20 year period with an effective interest rate of 3.643% through a shared services financing agreement with the Monmouth County Improvement Authority. The tax impact would be about \$77.00 dollars per year or a little over \$6.00 dollars per month for the average home in our district, assessed at \$383,000.

If not now....When? The Fire company cannot stay in this building for the long term, something must be done eventually.