



# 2021 Building Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

## Why do we need to renovate the firehouse?

The original Fire Station was built in 1962 and was designed for emergency services operations of that era. In 1967 and 1992, there were additions made to meet the specific needs at that time. Over the last 60 years, the complexity of emergency services has changed significantly as well as the equipment used to mitigate emergencies. In short, the space required to house this emergency equipment is no longer sufficient. This renovation will completely transform the exterior of the building and address essential emergency services needs more importantly. It will provide firefighters and EMS personnel with the appropriate facilities like decontamination rooms, training facilities, and sleeping quarters. All of this lends itself to improved service delivery to the community.



Additionally, several years ago, we had to stop renting out our Banquet Hall to the community. The aging mechanicals, antiquated aesthetics, and limited space made it less appealing to most potential renters. We also had to use some of the Banquet room space to accommodate our growing volunteer base. We are excited that we have addressed this issue in a meaningful way with this renovation. We have designed conferencing space with a large meeting room and two smaller meeting rooms, with an outdoor deck available to the community to rent. We recognize that having a gathering space in our community is an essential need.

## As a citizen, how can I help the renovation project?

Community and township residents can assist the firehouse renovation project in many ways. There will be opportunities to donate to our project at multiple levels, including room sponsorships, having your name listed in our tower, and standard donations. Sharing any posts or news releases on social media is a very helpful way to help the fire company reach the entire community and keep them informed.



You may also donate through our online [PayPal](#) link, or you may use your smartphone camera with this code.

All donations greater than \$100 will receive this Building Renovation Contributor Medallion Coin.



## Can I write off my donation?

You may be able to claim a deduction on your federal taxes if you donated to the East Brandywine Fire Company, as we are a 501(c)3 organization.

## Is the firehouse moving?

The Fire Station is not moving. The Fire Station is ideally located in the center of our community. It provides easy access not only for our volunteers but, more importantly, to the areas we cover for emergencies. We love the fact that it anchors the business district, and we are thrilled that this renovation will remove blight and enhance the village's image.

## Why don't you just build a new building?

We brought in a team of experts to help us address this consideration. Engineers determined that our current building was structurally sound, and we could save a significant amount of money by renovating. By maintaining our existing structure, we preserve our history and avoid costly land development and permit fees. In short, every dollar is going towards transforming the building to maximize our return on investment.

## Will you be able to respond to calls while under construction?

This is one of the most critical aspects of our renovation plan. Our Chief and his team of Officers have developed a plan to keep us 100% operational while we are under construction. It is imperative that we continue to provide the high-quality emergency services the community has become accustomed to receiving.

## How much is the renovation and how will you pay for the building?

The cost of the renovation is 3.1 million dollars.

The funds to pay for the building will come from a variety of sources. The first \$500,000 will be paid from the Fire Company's savings. We have always prided ourselves on being good stewards of the community's money and have been saving to prepare for this for

some time. To fund the remainder of the project, the Fire Company has secured a non-profit loan and will be taking on a mortgage payment. To make sure we can repay the loan and sustain our operations, we will be seeking support from different stakeholders. Our Township Supervisors have been incredibly helpful and have pledged their unanimous support for the project.

Additionally, we will be engaging the community seeking sponsorship opportunities. These opportunities will provide residents, business owners, and corporations the ability to partner with us to make this project a reality.

We will also be seeking grant opportunities for different aspects of the building. It is important to note the Fire Company already aggressively pursues grants to reduce the operational expenses and has been successful each year in securing monies.

## **Will my taxes increase?**

The Fire Company currently receives approximately \$225,000 out of the East Brandywine Township's 7.9 million dollar budget (2.85%). Our Township Supervisors have agreed to support the project by contributing another 100,000 dollars annually. The Fire Company would receive in total \$325,000 from East Brandywine Township. We also receive contributions from West Brandywine Township and Upper Uwchlan Township. A tax increase will depend on how the Township leaders choose to operationalize their budget.

## **Will breakfast with Santa come back?**

Since the outset of the project, this has been the most frequently asked question. We love the fact the Breakfast with Santa has become so ingrained in the fabric of our community. Breakfast with Santa will be back, with the only change being Santa will have a new great space to host the breakfast.

## **Can I rent the conference room or smaller meeting rooms?**

Yes, we have designed the building so that all the conferencing and community space will be located on the second floor. By designing the building in this manner, we have ensured that your meetings, birthday parties, or graduations can go uninterrupted and not impact the Fire Company operations. We are still working out several details regarding what rentals will look like, but rest assured the conferencing and community space will be available for rent.

## **What is the capacity of these spaces?**

The large meeting room will have a capacity for 100 people and connected to our outdoor patio. The two smaller rooms, which will be ideal for telecommuters, will hold 8 to 10 people.

## **Will the building and the second floor be ADA compliant?**

As the existing structure does not meet requirements, we want to ensure ADA compliance so that all of our members and guests may enjoy the facilities. We will have an elevator to the second floor, and all bathrooms will be wheelchair accessible. Additionally, we will have ramps into the building.

## **What are you doing with the cornerstone/year marker - 1962?**

The original building marker will be incorporated into our new building. The new building will have an area in which we will memorialize much of the Fire Company history.

Additional questions can be sent to [renovation@ebfc49.org](mailto:renovation@ebfc49.org).