

Voters say yes to new fire station

By Adam Swift

Voters overwhelmingly supported a \$38.5-million debt exclusion to build a new fire station on Pauline Street during a special election on Saturday.

The new station on the site of the old middle school will replace the town's two existing stations, both of which are well over a cen-

tury old.

Of the 3,962 votes cast on the questions, 2,955 – nearly 75 percent – were in favor of the debt exclusion. Two school budget override questions also won the support of voters on Saturday.

Town Council President Jim Letterie said he was impressed by the wide margin of support for the fire sta-

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tion debt exclusion.

"We are incredibly happy with the results for the firehouse, we can't thank the citizens enough," said Letterie.

Letterie also thanked the firefighters who were out front in making the case for the need for a new fire station.

While Letterie said he was pleased to see the debt exclusion pass, he added that it was important to acknowledge those who voted against the question.

"I totally understand that it is going to be a financial challenge for a lot of people, and I want them to know that I am going to make sure that the money that they just allotted for us is going to be spent as properly as humanly possible," said Letterie.

With the support of the new fire station in place, the Firehouse Building Committee was scheduled to meet on Tuesday evening.

Letterie said he expected the conversation at the meeting to revolve around the process and schedule for getting the fire station built.

"We will put out an RFQ (request for qualifications) for an OPM (owner's project manager), and we will get that out this week," said Letterie.

After the OPM is on-board, Letterie said the town will move forward with the process of selecting an architect and engineers for the project.

"We are moving rapidly for the firehouse," said Letterie. "Literally, we started discussing at 8:15 on Saturday night the next steps."

Winthrop Firefighters Local 1070 thanked the voters for their support of the new fire station.

"We are excited to start this process along with the whole community," they stated on their social media pages.