



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW \$7 MILLION CONSOLIDATED FIRE STATION IN VILLAGE OF WATERFORD

Project Will Construct More Resilient 15,150-Square Foot Facility to Support Emergency Efforts to Respond During Future Storm Events

February 14, 2020— The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery today broke ground on a \$7 million project to construct a new Consolidated Fire Station Project in the Village of Waterford. Once constructed, the larger and more-resilient facility will consolidate the village's three firehouses and serve as a centralized command post during future emergencies, while maximizing the efficiency of department operations on a more routine basis. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Village of Waterford.

"Once complete, the Consolidated Fire Station will serve as a critical lifeline for those who live and work in the village, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," **said Alana Agosto, Executive Director of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs at the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery.** "Using the experiences of local fire departments to inform specific resiliency strategies, this important NY Rising Community Reconstruction project will support New York's dedicated first responders at moments when it matters most."

During Hurricane Irene in August 2011, the Mohawk River rose to one of the highest levels recorded in the last 100 years. More than 90 homes were damaged by the storm, which greatly affected a significant portion of the Village of Waterford's 2,000 residents. Although none of the existing fire stations— all of which are within a quarter-mile of each other— were flooded, two of the three are located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, placing them at continued risk. Additionally, the physical separation between the three buildings complicated the delivery, and slowed the pace, of emergency services.

The consolidation of the three distinct buildings into one facility will streamline department response while additionally eliminating the need for costly custom-built fire apparatuses, which were previously required due to the conditions and limitations of the buildings.

Being built on land previously used as a New York State Department of Transportation and Canal Corporation maintenance facility, the new Consolidated Fire Station will accommodate modern equipment and provide a secure facility for storage. The center will also have the

capacity to serve as a temporary emergency shelter for residents during a flood or other major event.

With 15,150 square-feet, the consolidated facility will feature four double deep equipment bays, a command center, a first responder staging area, office space, training and exercise rooms, on-site kitchen and laundry, restrooms and a bunk room.

The Village of Waterford bonded for \$1.8 million, with GOSR contributing the remaining \$5.91 million to the project.

“We are thankful that the NY Rising Program has provided funding to enable the village to build this new firehouse,” **said Village of Waterford Mayor J. Bert Mahoney.** “It replaces our three present firehouses which were built in 1867, 1900 and 1963. We will now be able to buy modern fire equipment that does not have to be specially designed and built to fit in our present stations. This will enable the village to save funds while providing the best modern equipment for our firefighters.”

“The days of building our apparatus to fit our buildings, calling a station to send man power to different stations, keeping aging buildings up and running, will be over,” **said Waterford Fire Department Chief Donald Baldwin.** “We will be able to manage our resources, our manpower, equipment, and apparatus from one station we will be able to respond to alarms faster and more efficiently to save lives and property.”

“The construction of this new consolidated fire station shows the Village of Waterford’s commitment to improving public safety infrastructure,” **said Assemblymember John T. McDonald III.** “This has been a community involved process that I have participated in through the years and I commend the local officials and community volunteers who built consensus for this new location as well as bring all three districts under one roof to streamline delivery of services. Thank you to the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery for not only their assistance throughout this multi-year process but also the funding which makes this project a reality for the generations to follow.”

“Today is a great day for the Village of Waterford as this new Consolidated Fire Station facility will result in a streamlined departmental response in the event of a local emergency,” **said Senator Daphne Jordan.** “This \$7 million project will also provide temporary emergency shelter for Waterford families during the event of a flood or other major emergency. I congratulate the Village of Waterford on this ground-breaking, and thank the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, which successfully partnered with the Village in providing financing to bring this project to fruition.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Planning Committees across the state, and have together proposed hundreds of projects

inspired by the unique needs and assets of their regions. Collectively, NYRCR committees have held 650 planning meetings and 250 large-scale public engagement events as they have worked to rebuild more sustainable communities, reinforce infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and spur revitalization.

Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county and non-profit partners to bring locally-devised proposals to fruition.

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Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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