

Linda M. Hodge



First Selectman

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 5, 2009  
Colchester Town Hall  
Suite 201 – at 12:00 p.m.**

NANCY A. BRADY  
TOWN CLERK

*Nancy A. Brady*

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER,  
2009 MAY -5 PM 12:02

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Linda Hodge(via telephone), Selectman John Malsbenden, Selectman Rosemary Coyle(via telephone), Selectman Stan Soby (via telephone), Selectman Greg Cordova(via telephone)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Caplet

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman L. Hodge called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.
2. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of the Fire Truck, Ambulance, and Bacon Academy Track Site Suitability Fact Sheets as Required by Connecticut General Statute 9-369b:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the fire truck, ambulance, and Bacon Academy track fact sheets as presented and approved by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Adjourn:** J. Malsbenden moved to adjourn at 12:08 p.m., seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**Attachments**

1. "2000 Medium Duty Ambulance Replacement" fact sheet
2. "1982 American LaFrance Fire Attack Engine" fact sheet
3. "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Site Suitability for Rebuilding of Bacon Academy Track on Existing Location and Other Financial Implications" fact sheet
4. "Bacon Academy Replacement Fact Sheet"

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Caplet  
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

# 2000 Medium Duty Ambulance Replacement



Based on the geographical terrain, travel distance to area hospitals, and yearly call volume the Town of Colchester requires Medium Duty chassis ambulances for long term vehicle endurance.

The Colchester Fire Department transports an average distance of 17 miles to the following Emergency medical facilities:

Middlesex Medical Center, Marlborough  
Backus Hospital, Norwich  
Windham Hospital, Willimantic  
Hartford Hospital (Trauma Center), Hartford  
Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester

Middlesex Hospital, Middletown  
Lawrence Memorial Hospital, New London  
Children's Medical Center, Hartford  
St. Francis Hospital (Trauma Center), Hartford

The medium duty chassis ambulances are capable of transporting up to two patients to a medical facility from an emergency scene.

Ambulance staffing can consist of a driver, a lead Emergency Medical Technician, a Medical Response Technician and a Paramedic to provide advanced life support.

## **Ambulance Services in Colchester generate \$450,000 annually to the General Fund**

In 1994 the fire department took responsibility for medical transport. The department responded to 1,240 calls for emergency aid of which 701 were medical emergencies, the first year of service.

In 2008 the C.H.F.D. responded to 1,865 calls for emergency aid of which 1,180 were medical emergencies. 227 calls required the dispatch of a second ambulance.

**The C.H.F.D. has experienced a 68% increase in emergency medical responses over the past fourteen years.**

# Fire Engine Replacement Westchester Station 1982 American LaFrance Fire Attack Engine



This engine serves as the primary fire protection engine for the Westchester area, and also serves as a water supply apparatus for the entire community.

The vehicle was delivered in 1982 and has served in this capacity for 27 years. During this time the department has experienced a 107% increase in fire, rescue and hazardous material responses.

This engine has:

- Pump capacity of 1,250 gallons per minute.
- Water tank capacity is 1,000 gallons.
- No onboard fire fighting foam system.

The open cab design has fire fighters exposed to the elements during responses.

**In 2008 the department responded to 1,865 fire –medical – Auto accidents and rescue emergencies.**  
 6 - Structures, 7 - Chimney, 50 - Elêctrical, 21 - Brush fires, 15 - Vehicle fires, 11- Cooking-Heating,  
 35 - Hazardous Materials, 202 - Automatic Alarms, 137- MVC / Rescues, 22 - Other emergencies  
**As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2009 the department has responded to 587 emergency calls.**

During the calendar year of 2008 the Westchester District responded to a totaled **159** - calls for fire, rescue and hazardous materials incidents and another **145** calls for medical aid. These calls consisted of **42** - fires, **61** - automatic fire alarms, **40** - rescues **5** - hazardous materials and **11** - calls for public assistance. The fire responses included:

Structure Fires	3	Vehicle fires	2
Chimney Fires	3	Brush fires	7
Electrical Fires	19	Cooking related	1
Other fires	7		

**Of the 61 responses to automatic fire alarms 29 were a result of smoke or fire conditions in the building that required the intervention of fire service personal and equipment.**

**2009 YDT:** incidents, Westchester District: **50** responses for fire, rescue, hazardous materials and **53** calls for medical aid.

**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Site Suitability for  
Rebuilding of Bacon Academy Track on Existing Location  
And Other Financial Implications**

Prepared by Jason Cohen, Director of Parks & Recreation,  
Mark Decker, Director of Public Works, P.E.  
and Sal Tassone, Town Engineer, P.E.  
May 1, 2009

Q. Does the current track sit on wetlands?

A. While there are significant wetlands on the Bacon Academy property, none of the track area sits on wetlands.

Q. Are the soils beneath the existing track suitable for track reconstruction?

A. The data provided by eight (8) soil borings performed on the track site show sufficiently solid soils for construction.

Q. Is there ground water on the site?

A. While the soil borings show some shallow depth to ground water in the area of the track at the time of the test borings, the subgrade soils are inorganic and stable and should not be compromised by the incidental ground water. In addition, underdrains that would be installed in the gravel base of a new track would also serve to reduce any ground water impact. Surface water runoff is also controlled by catch basins and yard drains discharging beyond the limits of the track.

Q. Does the “cut and fill” nature of the current base materials create poor construction suitability?

A. When the existing track was built, a “cut and fill” process was used to level the site. Cutting soil from high portions of a site and using that solid material to raise up lower portions of a site is a standard construction method to create a level site. Both the soils that are exposed through cutting and the soils that are added through filling are solid and suitable for construction.

Q. Is the proximity of the existing track site to the high school a factor in the site selection?

A. The proximity of the site to the school makes it accessible for use by the students before, during and after the school day.

Q. Would a new track require annual maintenance?

A. The modern surfaces that are used to build running tracks create an impervious surface for water, which not only provides a safe, resilient surface for users, but helps to protect the asphalt base. No regular maintenance is required.

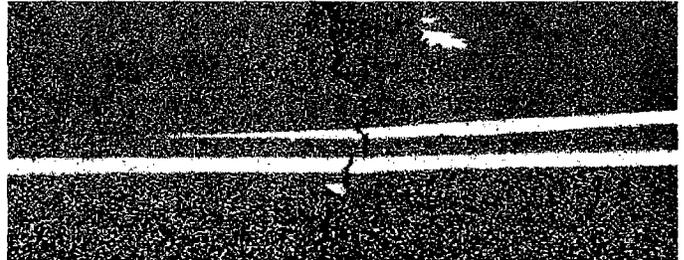
Q. What is the life expectancy of a new track?

A. Tracks currently being built have an overall life expectancy of approximately twenty (20) years. However, tracks typically must be resurfaced after ten (10) years.

# Bacon Academy Track Replacement Fact Sheet

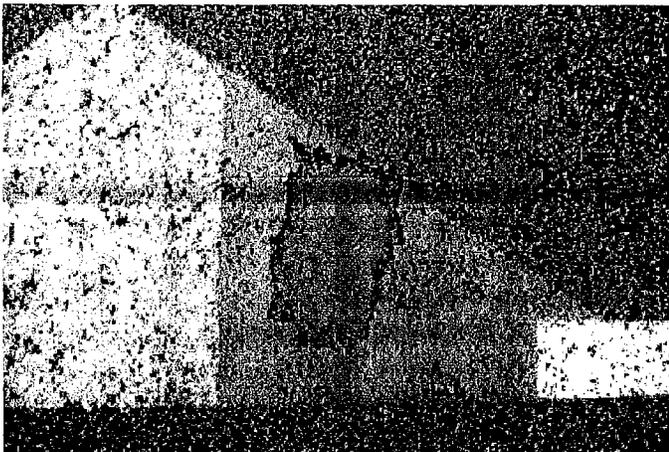
## History of Track Repair

- Prior to 2005, track was patched annually by P&R Dept. staff, with "major" patches contracted out approx. every 5 years
- Winter 2005 – Tri-board meeting to discuss concerns about the track
- Summer 2005 – \$4,500 spent on patching
- Fall 2005 – Recommendation to Boards to resurface or replace track
- Summer 2006 - \$2,000 spent on patching
- Winter 2007 - \$1,300 spent on repairs
- Summer 2007 - \$10,000 spent on repairing 2 sections (3,000 sq.ft.) of track
- Fall 2008 – BOF, BOS, BOE inspection of track
- Fall 2008 – Tri-board meeting discussing major capital needs including track. Track Study conducted by Landscape Architect



## Track Assessment & Recommendations

- A study of the current track and estimate for its repair/replacement was completed by landscape architects M.R. Roming. The study is available to the public at [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org) or at the Board of Education Office at Town Hall
- Projected cost of replacement track: \$664,700
- The cost would be financed by bonding, which would require payments beginning in the 2010-11 Town Budget.



## Who Uses the Track Each Year?

- Between 70-80 athletes on the Bacon Academy Track and Field team
- Other Bacon Academy sports teams (basketball, baseball, wrestling, soccer, cross country, cheerleaders, volleyball, football)
- 65 Middle School Track and Field athletes
- 30 Middle School Cross Country athletes
- 150-200 children who compete in the annual Hershey Track Meet and associated clinic
- 25 Special Olympics Track and Field athletes each spring
- Spring Academy Track Clinic for Middle School athletes
- 250 Physical Education students preparing and testing for state physical fitness requirements
- Fitness walking by students enrolled in Foods & Fitness course
- Community Fundraisers (i.e. The Sheehan Memorial Walk)
- Members of the community for recreational jogging and walking
- An estimated 1,000 community members use the track on an annual basis.

## Referendum Information

- Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6:00am-8:00pm
- Polling Station: Colchester Town Hall
- Question:  
"Shall the Town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend a sum not to exceed \$726,000 for reconstruction of track at Bacon Academy and authorize the issue of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?"