

# Port Fire Co. Seeks New Home

The Fire Medic Company Number One of Port Washington is looking to expand its operation. Fire Medic is part of the Port Washington Fire Company. The service, now located in the basement of the fire house, is seeking a new home.

Originally, the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) was situated in the basement of the fire house until the team could "prove" themselves, said Fire Medic spokesman Philip Poullada at Monday night's Port Washington North village meeting. Now that it has, the group is looking at potential sites.

Poullada said that one of the characteristics of the company which distinguishes it from other services is that it maintains a 24 hour sleep-in crew, whereas most companies have a volunteer staff which respond from their homes.

The basement space is currently "grossly inadequate", said Poullada. The company is trying to find a more centrally located building than its present location at 423 Port Washington Boulevard, across from the police station. Fire Medic's current response time is five and a half minutes, the same as the average of Nassau County, but Poullada said a more central

location could cut this time by as much as a minute and a half. Fire Medic answers 1500 calls a year. Of its \$125,000 budget, the Village of Port Washington North pays 10 percent, or \$12,500.

One of the sites considered is the closed Main Street school. Poullada said that use of this site would add no cost to the taxpayers. The community was already paying for the school through taxes and would have to pay for an additional Fire Medic building unless the vacant school was utilized. Poullada said he did not expect a definite answer from the school board until after the school board election.

Another site being looked at is the closed Nassau Banana, a 22,000 square foot warehouse on Small Place. Poullada said he thought this would be the most ideal site, except for an occasional pervasive smell of fuel oil. He said one of the reasons for the move was to encourage volunteers, and that the odor may be a distraction.

A minimum of 10,000 square feet would be necessary for the operation, "to be comfortable, 15,000 to 20,000," said Poullada, adding that it was hard to find affordable space.

**J.D'Alessandro**