

IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 8, 2017
TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM B2

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Fire Chief G. Gagnon, L. Alexson, Police Chief P. Nikas, R. Donahue, K. Buhl, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. Absent were P. Polonsky, C. Surpitski, H. Schwartz, and R. Shera (new Daddy).

CITIZEN QUERIES

Mr. Gary Champion questioned the statement made by Mr. Weatherall at the Special Town Meeting in June re the proposed elementary school site with quoted references by other committees that PSFC was focusing on the Winthrop site for a new public safety facility. Weatherall felt that it needed to be stated at Town Meeting that, while the Winthrop site had obvious merit, other sites were under consideration by PSFC as well.

Mr. Ed Rauscher urged the Committee to focus on speaking at the November 7 Town Meeting with an update re "Phase I, a public safety site." Chief Nikas said there are three possible sites. Rauscher suggested meeting with the Finance Committee re a building/ground site and the need for money, and feels that the Board of Selectmen will support the project, and perhaps the School Committee as well. Mr. Weatherall thanked him for his perspective and invited him back at any time.

DISCUSSION/VOTE ON NEXT STEPS

Having been a member of Public Safety Committees since 2008, Mrs. Emerson informed the new members of the history of committee efforts through 2014 including architectural and facilities studies of the two public safety buildings. Included was a statement by the Town's Facilities Director Hodge, made in 2010, that the current facilities had a life span of 5-10 more years. Chief Gagnon presented the large town map (done in 2003) denoting response times from the current Fire Station location on Central Street (NFPA regulations are 6-8 minutes). Chief Gagnon questioned the call data; that is, the number of Fire Department calls at that time period. Members discussed properties currently for sale for potential housing developments. While Mrs. Emerson felt that a new study for response times might not be needed, Chief Nikas gave an \$8 - \$10,000 number for an updated study.

Chief Gagnon spoke of the ambulance service contract which is up for renewal in 2019 and, due to certain circumstances, he expects ambulance service to shift within a few years from zero cost private company to fee-for-service or Town-owned service. Changes are expected in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement funding. Having bearing on new public safety facility analysis, he described various types of emergency medical response service and how the Town could meet those needs.

Detective Dziadose was called away at 7:54 p.m.

Following discussion on the timing of Town Meeting, Mr. Weatherall moved, seconded by Mr. Donahue, to move forward on a Public Safety feasibility study. UNANIMOUS.

PSFC will meet with the Finance Committee soon. Mrs. Alexson will ask the BOS for a placeholder on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Buhl moved, seconded by Mr. Weatherall, to put together an information presentation for the Fall Town Meeting on November 7. UNANIMOUS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Weatherall moved, seconded by Chief Nikas, to accept July 11 Minutes. UNANIMOUS.

NEXT MEETING

The group set August 29, 2017, at 7 p.m., Town Hall B2, for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Gagnon moved, seconded by Mrs. Alexson, to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. UNANIMOUS.