

IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
MAY 23, 2017
TOWN HALL, ROOM C

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: Fire Chief G. Gagnon, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, K. Buhl, R. McSherer, and J. Emerson. Absent was Harvey Schwartz, R. Donahue, Police Chief Nikas, and Paul Polonski.

CITIZEN QUERIES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter Dziadose moved, seconded by Kendall Buhl, to approve April 25, 2017, Minutes with one amendment on page 2 from "\$200,000" to "several hundred thousand dollars". UNANIMOUS.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FIRM PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Mr. Bruce Dillon of Dore and Whittier Architects, Inc. of Newburyport and Travis Miller of Andover, independent consultant, who works with Mr. Dillon looking at big cities and small towns, have offered to help with the direction of the PSFC, having experience with fire fighting, law enforcement, and purchase of services.

Bruce had been shown some of the Ipswich plans done before and suggested throwing them away. Sites are no longer available and costs/programming are irrelevant. The need is still valid. Conditions are unhealthy, unsafe, unworkable and inefficient with traffic, which causes problems with morale and health of the personnel directly involved.

The linear nature of the design plan depends with each new step on the previous step—a sequential process--working with a department and building committee to understand needs, ultimately to lay out a design that will work. He said it is important to have a building committee with people who are committed for the long term, perhaps six years.

Mr. Weatherall and Mr. Buhl began the discussion with the questions "What do we need? and How do we set the frameworks for that need?" Mr. Dillon outlined planning and the pre-design phase, the design, and finally the construction. Mr. Miller, citing the three obvious sites (Winthrop School, DPW yard, and current police station) said that the Town would be researched, the response calls would be tallied, and any other site that make sense researched. They will help evaluate the staff for the departments, check for the right apparatus, the number of facilities, and the right staffing—now and for the future.

Mr. Dillon said there are generally 5-6 common elements in a feasibility study. (1)Assessment of the site: civil engineer does an analysis of the sites for a variety of criteria: wetlands, resources, etc. and rank those criteria. (2)Existing conditions assessment, done only to validate for the townspeople. His advice was to tell the townspeople that public safety needs to leave these current buildings and

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Surpitski felt that, because studies always come back to the same site, response-time needs are more important. An old study cited need for three stations—the Neck, outer Linebrook, and in-town. He thinks that we should not lose sight of the fact that people want to be near the fire station. The best place is downtown, but we need to refresh the conclusion drawn long ago and look at the ideal solution to our public safety response needs before we fall back at the structure at Winthrop. Mr. Buhl also had the idea of trying to sell to the Town (the responsible thing to do) that the ideal is three stations, but here is one station in the middle. The community should be aware that what we are building is improving our ability to respond. Long-term reality is that we can't reach all areas of town in four minutes. The population centers are still the same, but the call volume has increased. Mr. Weatherall asked if there might a moment where we could engage the public to see if people would do it? Chief Gagnon said that Linebrook manned with three people per shift would cost \$1.2 million annually to maintain.

NEXT STEPS

In discussion it was decided that:

1. Chief Gagnon will scan the 2002 study for everyone to read (Comment: it still has validity)
2. The committee needs to capture the political will
3. The committee needs to ask for a study of needs in the vicinity of \$15,000
4. The committee needs to refresh response times and refresh locations for a site
5. Chief Nikas will bring in another professional for needs assessment

NEXT MEETING

The PSFC will convene at the Police Station at 6:30 p.m. on June 27. Following the tour, we will meet at Town Hall, hopefully with another professional.

ADJOURNMENT

Kendall Buhl moved, seconded by Charles Surpitski, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

