

IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
TOWN HALL ROOM B2

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: P. Polonsky, Chief A. Theriault, K. Carlson, R. Donahue, L. Alexson, Chief P. Nikas, H. Schwartz, T. Jones, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. J. Skelton was absent.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None.

DISCUSSION ABOUT MOVING ON TOWARD TOWN MEETING

Bob began the meeting by stating his reaction to a statement made by the firm the Town had hired which deemed the police and fire buildings “structurally sound” at a recent Tri Board meeting. The buildings are weather tight and the mechanical systems work. PSFC members agreed that they are not falling down because the Town has been pouring money into these buildings, built in the early twentieth century, to keep them serviceable. They do not, however, fit the needs of today’s Ipswich Fire and Police Departments which have outgrown current facilities. The mission of the Police and Fire Departments have changed drastically in the last years. As examples, the department chiefs mentioned counseling, mental health, drug addiction within police jurisdiction; weather-related emergencies such as flooding within the town due to global warming affecting the departments; and ambulance service with a full complement of certified responders is in the future.

Chief Nikas updated the Committee as much as possible with the statement from the Town Manager that matters cannot be discussed at this time. Tammy and Rob commented that the school project, currently functioning as the School Facilities Working Group, will be at least one/two years before they can request new school facility(ies).

Members suggested having a meeting to review all the reasons for having new facilities. Marketing is needed, said Rob, to inform citizens as to the inadequacies of current facilities. Charlie asked to research how other towns handled the process of building and suggested that we ask our architectural consultant for help. In discussion, two meetings were set with sub-groups for pointing out the needs to the citizens: Police/ Fire/Finances. September 24 @ 6:30 p.m. and October 2 @ 7 p.m. Agenda: Set up FAQs/answers. Create structure with bullet points for Town Meeting Report on October 29.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob moved, seconded by Chief Nikas, to approve Open Session Minutes of 7/17/19.
UNANIMOUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Tammy moved, seconded by Rob, to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. UNANIMOUS.