

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 10, 2018

Town Hall Room B2

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: H. Schwartz, L. Alexson, P. Polonsky, R. McShera, Chief P. Nikas, T. Howe, P. Dziadose, C. Surpitski, and J. Emerson. Absent were: R. Donahue, K. Buhl, and Dep. Chief A. Theriault.

CITIZENS' QUERIES

None.

REPRESENTATION FOR FIN COM MEETING ON WARRANT

Discussion began with reference to the TriBoard Meeting on March 27 where questions by Fin Com members were about PSFC's reason for asking for money for a feasibility study without proposals and why these discussions are going on now when the new school vote is imminent. Comment was made that the Fin Com mindset is for a "site" for the Public Safety Facility. Tammy asked if we want to push it off to Fall Town Meeting whereupon Chief Nikas replied that the Fall meeting is not for financial matters and another year would be lost for any movement toward a new facility. The Police Chief, in speaking with the Acting Town Manager, explained that he has three towns from the last three years whose feasibility studies were completed for \$90,000, \$120,000, and \$150,000 that all came in within the asking dollar amount, and Ipswich's probably won't be near to \$140,000. He continued that a (selected) firm's question period and the nearly six-month process to assemble 200+ pages will take up much time to do the study. The firms cannot negotiate once there is a set limit on the study's financial figure. Also, if the plan is to do no building for the next ten years, what expenses must be incurred for the existing public safety buildings?

Tammy made note of the discussion and departed for the FinCom meeting on the Warrant Articles at 7:30 p.m.

Linda reported on the BOS discussion and vote on Article 13 (Feasibility Study) of the Warrant. After reconsideration votes on Articles 13 and 14, and revoting on the two, Article 13's funding will be \$140,000 (and no more) from Free Cash on a 3/2 vote, Rauscher and Whitmore opposed. The Town Meeting vote will be a simple majority on Article 13.

PAMPHLET REVIEW

Possibilities for printing 500 copies of the 14" x 17", two-fold pamphlet were discussed. Chief Nikas will speak to the Acting Town Manager Jim Engel re using Town resources. There is the question of advocacy vs. informational information.

The group, without Chief Nikas who joined the FinCom meeting upstairs, reviewed the latest draft and made changes in the placements and language including photos to project at

TM during the Article 13 presentation. Peter D. will check the archives for alternative police station photos.

PLANNING FOR THE PRESENTATION

At 8:50 p.m., Chief Nikas returned to announce that discussion and voting resulted in a 7/2 vote in favor of supporting Article 13 (White and Schaaf opposed, preferring to wait until a later time).

At Town Meeting, Linda Alexson will present the Article, Bob Weatherall will explain further with the “Why now” answer, and Chief Nikas will be available for support. Linda suggested that the Deputy Fire Chief should be available as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Surpitski moved, seconded by H. Schwartz, to approve Minutes of March 20, 2018. UNANIMOUS.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

By April 20, each member will have received a new copy of the pamphlet to be distributed at the Town Meeting on May 8. A meeting of PSFC will be posted for April 24 in case of need. May 22 will also be posted for the next regular meeting.

J. Emerson moved, seconded by R. McShera, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. UNANIMOUS.