

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL ROOM B2
JANUARY 7, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

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

In addition, Bob welcomed Town Manager Tony Marino, Finance Director Sarah Johnson, Police Sgt. Eric Copithorne, and Seth Perry of 29 Linebrook Road, a neighbor of the proposed site.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None

UPDATES ON ARCHITECTURAL WORK

Bob reported on his communication with Janet Slemenda (architect) re her perception of the site plan for grading and square-foot numbers. Borings have not been conducted thus far. He spoke of the need for outreach to the community and that the Fire and Police must be forthcoming to listen to and work with the new Strategy Planning Committee.

INTRODUCTION TO PSFC WEBSITE

Chief Nikas introduced Sgt. Copithorne who reviewed and explained the website (IpswichPublicSafetyFacility.net) as projected on the wall of B2. It was generally agreed the material on the website should include the current (old) facilities, the 1953 proposal for a police station and court on the fire station site, and the 2002 study by Winter Street Architects for new facilities, both of which never came to fruition. The FAQs (and a place for further questions from the citizens), a visual of the plot on Linebrook Rd/Pine Swamp Rd (acreage, conceptual buildings, and parking areas), fire-response chart of the Town, and totals of response-call volumes and incidents will all be available on the website to inform the public. Chief Nikas reported that the first, second, and final analyses of program needs which were done with both chiefs, the architect, and the Town Manager, have reduced the square footage and price. Bob suggested that the Committee review and critique the website pages at the next meeting.

OUTREACH

Having met with Father Keyes, Peter Dziadose spoke of opening the basement of the Catholic church to parishioners and anyone interested in the project, on Wednesday, January 29, at 7 p.m. Among the topics to be discussed will be the gardens on the plot which will have to be replaced.

On the subject of outreach, Jamie Fay is in favor of more transparency. Tammy suggested publishing the FAQs in the Ipswich Local newspaper again. Paul P. suggested

scrolling on the ICAM banner site to publicize drone videos and tour dates. Police and Fire Departments will control the narrative for a script for ICAM.

PROJECT PLANNING, BUDGET, AND PROCESS

Sarah Johnson explained that the debt exclusion for the MS/HS is dropping off in 2020 (\$1.389 million every year), and the tax rate will drop in 2021 because debt exclusion floats above the tax levy. There are two ways to pay: level debt service (tax rate remains the same over the borrowing period) or level principal, paying more interest up front and dropping so that it is then cheaper in the future. The Fin Com and Select Board will play a role in the determination. The options for Town Meeting include (a) the \$630,000 to buy only the land, (b) the design-stage cost and later the contracted building cost, and (c) the land/design/construction cost in one vote. Having the total cost for the whole project is imperative. While PSFC has not taken a stand, they expressed doing it all at once (c) as the most desirable.

Town Manager Marino spoke about meeting with Janet Slemenda to reduce the cost of the project and suggested that the push to have everything prepared for May Town Meeting is difficult. He proposed a Special Town Meeting in October, 2020, followed by a ballot vote as the better plan. Several members spoke in agreement. The TM recommended two Warrant Articles in October, one for the project and one for the land. Another point in favor is that interest rates are currently low.

Jamie Fay asked about ambulance service. Space has been allotted in the plan for the new facility. Fay asked also about public entrance to the facility—a discussion for later.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by T. Jones, to approve Minutes of 12/17/19.
UNANIMOUS.

NEXT MEETINGS

PSFC will meet on January 14, 2020, at 7 p.m., in Town Hall Room B2.

PSFC will meet on January 29, 2020, at 7 p.m, in the basement of the Catholic Church,
Linebrook Road.

ADJOURNMENT

Tammy moved, seconded by Rob, to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. UNANIMOUS.