

IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
APRIL 25, 2017
TOWN HALL, ROOM C

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:017 p.m. with the following members present: Police Chief P. Nikas, P. Polonsky, Fire Chief G. Gagnon, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, K. Buhl, R. McSherer, R. Donahue, and J. Emerson. Absent was Harvey Schwartz who was away.

CITIZEN QUERIES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by R. Weatherall, to approve Minutes of March 21, 2017. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Weatherall moved, seconded by Chief Nikas, to approve April 4, 2017, Minutes with one amendment regarding the Hamilton, MA, combined police/fire facility. UNANIMOUS.

DISCUSSION RE REPORTS FROM FIRE AND POLICE CHIEFS

Chief Nikas attended the trade show and spoke with numerous vendors who do architectural work. Consensus among all vendors (spoken with individually) is an assessment first, by hiring a company to do assessment for police, fire, and communications, noting size of lot needed and building with cost estimates, which could be done as just a determination of manning issues and programming as well as future needs. Estimated cost is \$15,- \$20,000. Most companies do everything from A – Z including consulting. Chief Nikas reached out to the Ipswich Finance Director, learning that engaging an engineering firm for under \$50,000 with three quotes, does not require going out to bid.

Chief Nikas distributed a sheet explaining why a Space Needs Assessment study is needed. The scope of this Committee (Board/Selectmen recommended) is to propose a site and determine the financial needs--\$15,000 to work with.

Discussion took place regarding the scope of the work. Nikas volunteered to get documents from the Chief of Salisbury who has a new facility. Ryan McShera offered Quincy's documents regarding scope of services, deadlines, site studies, beginnings of design, fees for the work, etc. When asked if combined or separate facility is preferred, neither chief is opposed to the combination if it is the most sellable to the public and the most economical. There would be no reduction in staff. The needs assessment will study each department individually and then, combined.

Mr. Surpitski had two issues: (1)desire to expand management, harbors, etc. and (2)if a prior study was used to update, would it be cheaper? Would they take past data? There is a 2002 report that was a feasibility study for a public safety facility, and he suggested scanning that including shellfish and emergency management space. An independent company would look at everything.

Fire has a larger demand for accessibility. Surpitski commented that, relative to response time, there should be three stations, not one. Ipswich doesn't have 3-5 minute response. The ambulance location at outer Linebrook is advantageous. The station adjacent to Wolf Hill was explained to the new members as a place for older trucks with Ipswich call firemen manning it in times of emergencies in the 1970s/80s, never intended to be manned fulltime. The Neck needs a fire facility: Air Force property (currently at a standstill because of need to restore the property by the Federal government) might provide a site eventually.

The study done in 2002 following the fatal fire said that Linebrook Station should be manned by two people (\$1.5 million annually). Nikas commented that it should be three people. Kendall Buhl, permanent firefighter, opined that Linebrook should be manned, but because minimum personnel (and an ambulance) was mentioned for eight firefighters, it exceeded the limit for selling the proposal to the taxpayer. Surpitski commented that people in authority had different plans, but a smaller station could be planned for the future. Wolf Hill is currently encroaching on the Town's property out there. Chief Gagnon said that it will come to a point in time where a contract for \$200,000 will be spent for ambulance service according to Federal/State policies.

Chief Gagnon asked if the Committee should make Fall Town Meeting a goal and proceed in a fashion to bring a proposal before the Selectmen to ask them for the sourcing of money? Mr. Donahue feels that we need a scope of work, go out and get bids, and ask Selectmen for the dollars. Comments were made that, once a needs assessment was made, if a new firm was hired to go beyond, that new firm would then have to review the assessment, involving extra cost.

Direction of the Town's building projects should settle in three weeks after Town Meeting and the ballot box. Focus on the needs assessment is now. In August/September, the Committee can move forward to propose something at the Fall Town Meeting.

Consensus of the group was for Chief Gagnon to contact a company to speak to PSFC re a Needs Assessment for the next meeting on May 23, 2017, at 7 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

P. Dziadose handed the Action Ambulance extended contract (dated 6/5/12), originally made in June, 2009, with the Town of Rowley which includes the following paragraph: "Action will house its EMTs at the Ipswich Fire Station (Linebrook Road location), Cable Center, County Road, Ipswich, and" to Jean for the records.

ADJOURNMENT

Rob Donahue moved, seconded by Kendall Buhl, to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

