

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN HALL ROOM B2
DECEMBER 3, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following members present: P. Polonsky, K. Carlson, H. Schwartz, R. Donahue, P. Dziadose, T. Jones, R. McShera, Chief P. Nikas, and J. Emerson. L. Alexson joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Absent were: C. Surpitski, J. Skelton, and Chief A. Theriault.

CITIZEN QUERIES

Seth Perry and Amanda Tower of 29 Linebrook Road, in residence for less than a year, came to listen to plans for a new facility on Linebrook-PineSwamp property.

Citizen Andrew Agapow's letter putting forth an idea for a site for the public safety facility was read by Bob. Members cited several deficiencies with the downtown parking lot off Hammatt Street. The lot, which is too small, currently has three owners, and residents who border the lot are specifically allowed to park there. Purchase would be extraordinarily cumbersome to pursue and astronomically expensive. Also, the lot is strikingly convoluted and has a brook running under it. Chief Nikas had served on the downtown parking committee.

UPDATE ON LAND PURCHASE/SALE AGREEMENT

Bob welcomed back Janet Slemenda of HKT architects. Chief Nikas reported that the P&S agreement on the Linebrook Rd/Pine Swamp Rd. is ready and at \$630,000, the Town is actually going to get all the land except the one buildable lot at the farthest point from Linebrook Road because the Diocese might want to sell that lot. The agreement is based on the assessment values by both the Town and Diocese assessors. The total acreage is 11.99 acres including wetlands; consequently, close to 9 acres will provide open space beyond the original 4-5 acres required. Bob asked Janet about sustaining the community garden. The Committee heard about a strip on the church side of Pineswamp Road which could be cultivated. Elm Street (once the police station is removed) might provide a site for gardens. Chief Nikas stated that the verbal understanding of the land purchase is that the sale of the land is only offered for the Public Safety facility of the Town, and he would need verbiage from the Town Manager as to the details.

REPORT OF TRI-BOARD MEETING REPORT

Bob Weatherall, having attended the recent TriBoard meeting, spoke of the newly formed Strategic Planning Board. Tammy explained that the Selectboard has repeatedly asked for a "grand scheme" in regard to lining up major capital expenditures in Ipswich. The Town Manager and Town Accountant are both on this Board. Bob commented that this Committee affects us to some degree because we don't want to get slowed down with our progress. Also, there is need to make the School Committee aware that the Public Safety Facility must be done quickly while the high/middle school debt comes off the books and then let them work for the schools.

ARCHITECT EXPLANATION OF NEXT MOVES

Janet Slemenda explained the five steps for designing/constructing public facilities.

Step 1 – Preliminary Planning-Feasibility Study. The contract includes designing a building on a site, a cost estimate, and a report. She said the site has to be developed because of the topography. The numbers must be completed by the beginning of April to meet May Town Meeting expectations and get support from the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

Step 2 – Chief Nikas announced that the Town Manager, Finance Committee and Selectboard all feel that Town Meeting should ask for the total project costs based on feasibility estimates.

Step 3 - The charge voted by the Selectboard (12/19/16) to PSFC is that it will “work with the TM and town staff to obtain OPM” at the beginning of the design phase. The TM will recommend the OPM (Owners Project Manager) and the PSFC will hire.

Step 4 – Selection of the Design Team following the OPM selection.

Steps 5-7 – The design phase, the bidding phase, and the construction phase to include a General Contractor, an architect and design team, and a Clerk of the Works.

The architect meets with the TM and both Chiefs next week. There is approximately \$65,000 remaining in feasibility funding, and Janet, wishing to get the best people for the project, will begin immediately with her civil engineer to talk about the site topography.

Peter asked the couple present about their concerns and stated that PSFC must invite abutters to attend meetings as the project evolves.

CALL PATTERNS/RESPONSE TIMES AS THEY RELATE TO PROPOSED SITE

Chief Nikas, on the subject of emergency calls for response by fire personnel prepared by Chief Theriault, noted that the town, for the sake of documentation, is divided into two parts: north and south of the center of town. Over a three-year period, the downtown area had the most calls- 2600; the south side- 1900; Linebrook/High Street- 1200 ; outer Linebrook- 900; the Neck area-724; Topsfield Rd- 667.

Railroad tracks were never a hindrance. Keith Carlson, permanent firefighter and committee member, stated that train tracks have no bearing on the response. Four traincars on the track take seconds to pass. If he had to guess, it would be six times a year at the most that this event (fire emergency equipment meeting up with a passing train) occurs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Jean suggested a weekly (printed/online) column to help the public understand and have questions answered re the need for a new facility. She will contact John Muldoon. Web pages for four times of the current Fire and Police stations, meeting with Golden Age groups, neighborhood coffees, and even an all-town Board meeting (suggested by Janet) to get the Boards all together were put on the list. Chief Nikas felt it made sense to build a second page over the Town's website to keep the townspeople up to date.

Tammy moved, seconded by Keith, that Police Sergeant Copithorne build a linking website. UNANIMOUS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harvey moved, seconded by Keith, to accept Minutes of October 22, 2019.
UNANIMOUS with Tammy abstaining.

NEXT MEETING

To keep the momentum going, a date of December 17 was selected for the next meeting at 7 p.m. at Town Hall Room B2.

MISCELLANEOUS

Paul Polonsky, recently retired, reported that he now cannot serve as union representative of the dispatchers. However, the dispatchers are favorable to his continuing to serve for them if PSFC agrees. Rob moved, seconded by Chief Nikas, to keep Paul as the representative for the dispatchers. UNANIMOUS.

Linda asked about having ICAM record meetings of PSFC. After discussion, the group decided that when it is ready to formalize procedures at a later date, it would be feasible.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda moved, seconded by Rob, to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. UNANIMOUS.