

**IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 20, 2022
ROOM A, TOWN HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Chief P. Parisi, Chief P. Nikas, C. Surpitski, K. Buhl, J. Fay, Deputy Chief L. Prentiss, P. Dziadose, D. Morris, Town Manager S. Crane, J. Sullivan (CHA), B. Elyo (TGAS), and J. Emerson. Absent were R. Donahue, T. Jones, and H. Schwartz.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None.

DISCUSSION/VOTE ON MOVING AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT

While the group awaited the arrival of T. Gallante, the architect (delayed in traffic), Joe Sullivan, OPM, presented the Total Project Budget for Ipswich Public Safety to each of the members. He pointed out cost savings projected @ \$518,000 for OPM & Design Contingency at a \$500,000 figure, a cost saving of \$18,000. Total Project Costs include everything, even to legal fees which is being "lived" as a moving procurement. Once into construction, there will be a weekly/monthly report. Joe answered TM Crane's question that they track changes, risks, and keep a contingency log as the structure goes up in an attempt to minimize exposure. Brian is hoping to get full approval to proceed with design development.

Because Chief Parisi has concerns re people from Linebrook pulling onto the "bay" frontage, discussion followed regarding the entrance from Pine Swamp Road for the public and the entrance to the Fire Department area. There was mention of the changed training area for Fire because of the reduction of four bays to 3 bays. Bob says there is expansion space on the upper floor for the future.

Ted of TGAS said there were a number of factors that were impacted. Now there is a possibility of a smaller figure per sq. ft. from the original estimators at \$857/sq.ft. and now \$820/sq.ft. Joe asked if a point has been reached based on the reductions to move into design development. TM Crane asked if we want to move forward on budget or ask for a sum of money, questioning whether there is a directive from the Finance Committee or at a Town Meeting? Jamie replied that there is need to continue the work and keep this budget going, with opportunities for additional funding. Joe agreed, as did Kendall, in regard to benefactors. TM Crane related that EBSCO may be interested in off-loading their furniture. Bob spoke about the positive step of keeping the Central Street Fire Station within Public Safety for the several other branches of public safety; namely, harbors, boats, etc. and Chief Nikas agreed.

Ted of TGAS and Joe of CHA spoke of a price check at the end of April and "add-alternates", a scope of the building in the design separate from the main bid, a strategic move to find what is the most important, and they recommend the add-alternates in the design development phase.

In discussion of a vote by the PSFC, Bob read Tammy's commentary (in her absence) and suggestions re emergency management, mental health, regionalization of dispatch, and program flexibility. Chief Nikas commented that mental health does not need a designated office and predominantly Police does law enforcement. Conversation ensued (pro and con) re regional dispatch.

Because he is in favor of the \$27.5 million, Bob asked if we should adhere to the vote by the voters re the price of the building or go beyond the Town Meeting. Nikas said we could solicit outside funding and Bob said that it is important to have a contact person to find the sources of funding. Charlie said we advertised it with all the components and promises for the 21st century and now we can't afford to do that without asking for more money, adding that, since we cannot accomplish what was presented to the voters at Town Mtg/election due to the constraints of the current budget negatively affected by unprecedented inflation, do we have a legal, moral, or ethical obligation to explain this to the voters? Kendall said that one way or another we must go back to the Town to close the gap between design and the previous iteration and say that we are not getting what public safety was promised, adding that it is not public friendly and does not allow for growth of our public safety departments. Mr. Crane suggested making a recommendation to the Select Board to go back to Town Meeting re the Warrant Article.

While Jamie wanted to direct the design team to move forward with the project at \$21.5 million, Joe spoke of the inability to engage with a contractor unless you have the money. Ted and Joe gave the figure of \$21.8 million @820 sq. ft. on schematic design. Jamie moved, seconded by Stephen Crane TM to go ahead to Design Development from Schematic Design @ \$21.894 million. UNANIMOUS. (Kendall's opposition to the motion was not recognized and the vote was 9 in Favor, 1 Opposed)

Charlie moved to actively pursue other funding sources including a possible Article at Town Meeting, funding that the Town might have, and exploring benefactors. Seconded by Chief Parisi, the vote was UNANIMOUS.

Select Board involvement by PSFC comes first. Public forum(s) to be advertised by repetitive local newspaper items were highly recommended for January.

Chief Parisi requested a meeting re the Design Development subcommittee for tweeking. Joe and Ted agreed to an "Operations" group of the two Chiefs, the OPM, and the architect.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. Crane moved, seconded by K. Buhl, to approve PSFC Minutes of 12/6/22. UNANIMOUS with Peter, Dan, and Jamie abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Jamie moved, seconded by Peter, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. UNANIMOUS.

