

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL ROOM B2
DECEMBER 17, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: Fire Chief A. Theriault, T. Jones, K. Carlson, L. Alexson, C. Surpitski, R. Donahue, R. McShera, Police Chief P. Nikas, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. Absent were H. Schwartz, P. Polonsky, and J. Fay. Joseph Bourke of the Finance Committee joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m., having been appointed as alternate representative of the Fin Com.

Bob announced that Jamie Fay, newly appointed Fin Com member to replace Janice Skelton, wants transparency.

CITIZEN QUERIES

Carl Gardner of 9 Woods Lane distributed a list of questions for the Committee. Members answered his six points regarding the consideration of options: opting for two new, separate facilities; renovating/expanding the existing police station; reuse of the two existing police/fire facilities if a new facility is built elsewhere; bringing the Linebrook Station back online; railroad track issue; and phasing of funding with a new fire station and a separate police station. Each of his questions were answered in turn, and he was invited to tour both current facilities. He also spoke of “drive-through preferences for fire vehicles”, and Chief Theriault spoke of experiences with this option and its drawbacks.

RECAP OF RECENT VISIT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob had reported re PSFC’s activities at a recent Fin Com meeting and learned that a tight schedule exists for budget submissions from Town Committees and Warrant Articles before Town Meeting. PSFC’s Warrant Article must be completed. The new Strategic Planning Committee, having just organized, is an important one for PSFC to interact with (they meet next on 1/9/2020 at 7:30 a.m.). He mentioned that PSFC needs to be diligent about promoting the mandate given to us by the Selectboard in 2017, and we must reinforce the point that the Selectboard had given us the charge to build a combined public safety facility, recommending a sum for conducting a feasibility study, obtaining OPM and architectural services, and design, construct, and commission a facility suitable to present/future public safety needs of Ipswich. Bob explained that out of respect for Father Keyes, the committee pursued the site acreage carefully. We are working on behalf of the Town—not just us wanting a new facility. This is a town project, and we are just shouldering the load. Mr. Bourke commented that the project now needs to come forth with a united front.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

Website – Chief Nikas reported that a page on the town’s website is available for scanning information. The history of the two departments, their inadequate facilities, the studies done by former facilities committees, the chosen architect’s experience, programming needs of the fire/police departments, etc. will be completed for the website. An aerial view of

the site can come later. Ryan suggested that other people should do the web design and PSFC should take ownership on the copy.

IPSWICH LOCAL newspaper – Jean reported having talked with John Muldoon and expects that “frequently asked questions” will begin to appear in its columns immediately.

ICAM – Linda reported that ICAM is ready and the two Chiefs need to get in touch so that ICAM can tour their current facilities.

TOURS/OPEN HOUSES – Members suggested various venues/groups for holding information gatherings. These include the Linebrook Fire Station, the Catholic Church basement (especially inviting the neighborhood of the anticipated new facility), the Council on Aging, Association of Great Neck, etc. to continue from January through April prior to Town Meeting. Peter will contact Father Keyes.

OTHER – Tammy proposed signage along the roadways. Ryan mentioned an architectural presentation of the schematic to render more community response. Rob followed up on the architect’s suggestion that PSFC should invite every board or at least a representative of every board in town to meet with PSFC. Charlie suggested inviting all committee heads to come to a regularly scheduled meeting.

Jamie Fay called in at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

January 7, 2020, was set as the next meeting. Its business schedule will include website information, setting a date for a meeting at the church, feedback from department heads, and Town Warrant article language. When TriBoard meets on January 21, PSFC needs to be ready for a presentation to garner support of all three boards and HKT needs to be there as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tammy moved, seconded by Rob, to approve Minutes of 12/3/19. UNANIMOUS with Linda abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Rob moved, seconded by Chief Nikas, to adjourn at 9 p.m. UNANIMOUS.