

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
MARCH 30, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the following members present: L. Alexson, T. Jones, R. Donahue, Chief P. Nikas, P. Polonsky, J. Fay, Chief A. Theriault, P. Dziadose, C. Surpitski, K. Carlson, and J. Emerson. Absent: H. Schwartz.

CITIZEN QUERIES

Dan Morris, Ipswich resident and newly appointed Chief of Communication for the Police Department, (replacing retired Paul Polonsky) listened in on the meeting.

TOWN CLIMATE RESILIENCY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Michael Johnson and Carolyn Britt came to the meeting to present their “Zero Carbon” Resiliency Resolution and information regarding specific requirements, where other municipal buildings are being built, what to expect for the short term up front, and the ongoing costs of the buildings. Climate Resiliency Committee members include two School Committee members, one Select Board member, one Fin Com member, and a number of citizens plus one student. Because of climate change and the need for “net zero” carbon emissions by 2050, Ipswich is consistent with the MA recent legislation for “net zero” by 2050 aligning with state and national climate goals. The Ipswich resolution is to reach 100% zero carbon emissions in Town by 2040 (50% by 2030). All municipal buildings should be fully electric with no fossil fuels by 2040. With capital planning, operational costs, a program of rebates, etc., John Blair of the Electric Light Department reports that Ipswich will be about 25% carbon free by 2025. Costs of utilities with solar are showing an increasing pace. To Bob’s question of how an emergency facility operates, Carolyn replied that she assumes a propane generator or battery would handle the emergency.

Linda asked about other public safety projects with net zero carbon, and Mike cited Beverly’s new Police Station which is incorporating a geothermal heat pump, heated as a net zero building, and said the new facility would be open for a visit. Belmont High School and Lexington’s Fire and Police are other examples. Eighty-nine per cent of net zero buildings cost only 1% more than a traditional building. Operating costs are a fraction of what gas/fossil fuel systems cost. Beverly projects a \$1.3 million saving over a 25-year cycle beyond reducing the carbon emissions by two to one. Bob deduced that the key piece for PSFC ahead is to inform the public that we are asking them to join us in our effort for cost effectiveness.

John Blair (ELD) would like to involve the town’s power plant and become a partner with them in heat pumps at the High/Middle School. Mike said that all town buildings currently operating on natural gas could move to electrical (heat pumps) with the ELD and reduce expenses to a fraction of what they now are. When volume is increased, the price per building goes down.

Carolyn spoke of the Governor having signed the Bill for clean energy with heat pumps,

and Ipswich would be eligible. We have an ongoing project to look at net zero carbon planning town-wide. Another benefit will be the public health issue: not having gas usage which is unhealthy. The building envelope with clean energy is much more safe and efficient, and kids are more awake and active as a result of the better ventilation. Net Zero has a COVID-safe ventilation rate.

Tammy commented on advances made in town as a Green Community with geo retrofits at the high school and electric cars for the police, and Mike spoke of the Green Community reprogramming to put together a feasibility study of \$25–30,000 looking at all the options for costs and needed replacements. Bob asked Mike and Carolyn if they would partner with PSFC for support on the presentation of the public safety building. Mike is happy to partner and suggested that the consistent method is to design and do engineering at the very beginning assuming that a net-zero building is the goal. Bob opined that hiring an architect who would be responsive to net zero would entail roughly a year of the design process. Carolyn recommended a person at the Waring School in Beverly and a School Board member in Lexington who advocate for and are involved in net zero planning.

Chief Nikas thanked them for the presentation and invited them to visit the Police Station to see how bad the quality of air and lack of efficiencies are and to help advocate for us. Chief Theriault added that the Fire Department ventilates by opening the doors on a nice warm day! Tammy suggests metrics on old vs. new facilities for heating, ventilation, and energy use. With a fast-changing world, Jamie feels that the town's expectation is that we will be doing net-zero building because, with this level of sophistication and people who have actually done these buildings, finding an architect with this experience will not be difficult. To Bob's question about Fin Com sentiment, Jamie replied that Mike/Carolyn spoke with Fin Com who did make a resolution which they will revisit in five years. It seemed to be the right thing to do as the town embarks on the Strategic Plan.

REVIEW OF EDITS TO FEASIBILITY DRAFT

Bob spoke of the late arrival (3/30/21) of the latest edit of the HKT report so that he hadn't had an opportunity to read it. Jamie and Linda each spoke about the \$25 million number, now going on two years old, and not an up-to-date construction number. To Bob's question of escalating costs as time goes by, Tammy suggested putting in both old and new numbers. Because building prices are going up, it is just a fact that we are stuck with and in terms of presenting it to the community, we can't control the price. Paul N. asked about staying with the \$25 million and Jamie replied that, if a bid is authorized with a certain number and the bid comes in higher, there will be no project. A basic design can have alternatives and if, in fact, the bids come in low, items can be added back in. Consensus of the group is that reviewing of the edited document is needed, updating the numbers is needed (p. 37), and it must be done by the end of this weekend (April 3).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul N. moved, seconded by Jamie, to approve Minutes of March 18, 2021. Roll call IN

FAVOR- Nikas, Fay, Weatherall, Jones, Alexson, Polonsky, Donohue, Emerson; Abstaining- Theriault, Dziadose, Surpitski, Carlson.

NEW DATE FOR MEETING

PSFC will meet on Zoom on April 22, 2021, at 7 p.m.

RETIREMENT

Paul Polonsky congratulated Dan Morris on his appointment and announced that he will probably be stepping away from PSFC. He was thanked for his service and wished a happy retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Rob moved, seconded by Tammy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Roll call IN FAVOR- Alexson, Jones, Polonsky, Donahue, Weatherall, Theriault, Nikas, Fay, Dziadose, Surpitski, Carlson, Emerson.