

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2017

Town Hall Room B2

CALL TO ORDER

Robert Weatherall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: H. Schwartz, L. Alexson, T. Howe, C. Surpitski, R. McShera, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. Absent were: P. Polonsky, A. Theriault, R. Donahue, P. Nikas, and K. Buhl.

CITIZENS QUERIES

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Weatherall spoke of taking some action now toward the Spring Town Meeting when the Town will vote on a feasibility study for a public safety facility. Rob Donahue had sent along a draft which Weatherall distributed.

Ryan McShera, in discussion, agreed to doing a graphic of short bullet points to include history, current needs, etc. Reference was made to a document handed out by Linda Alexson which had come from citizen Gary Champion regarding the filling of the current firehouse basement with soil and getting 15 years more life from the building. Members decided to keep the proposal in mind while they do research.

Harvey Schwartz, saying that there will be resistance among the populace, suggested taking a step back to the broader theme which is convincing each citizen that he/she will benefit from a new facility—to say it is “ours”, not “theirs”--and all members agreed. Harvey remarked that the history and shortcomings are the Town’s problems, and we should show the way to solve them.

In discussion, the following members consented to research:

C. Surpitski will talk with his colleagues who have been successful in achieving new public safety facilities.

T. Howe, Fin Com member, will investigate ongoing costs related to old facilities—maintenance of old buildings, costs related for special fire apparatus to fit within the present bays at the firehouse, and the dollars that the Town has been spending on the old buildings to keep them “livable.” Where does PS fit on the Capital Improvement Plan? What are insurance costs, maintenance amounts?

L. Alexson made reference (and will send members the internet link) to the Mansfield construction project of their new public safety facility.

P. Dziadose will speak to Jonathan Hubbard about any funding/grant availability.

A. Theriault will be asked for fire insurance protection ratings.

Part of the duty of a Town for police and fire protection, Harvey commented, is that there must be a place where communication, shellfish, and waterways can operate as well. Tammy roughed out a graphic of Public Safety at the hub and radiating from it would be the

various departments: Police, Fire, Communications, Harbors, Shellfish, Emergency Management.

In discussion of ICAM videotaping of present facilities, Charlie felt the filming by the videographer should be led by the Chief of each department showing the current status for broadcast on television.

Tammy suggested a logo to identify the project.

With Spring Town Meeting in May, the awareness project for the townspeople should be complete in April. Bob W. summarized discussion for the next meeting:

1. Amounts being spent by the Town on maintenance of current facilities and keeping up to code.
2. ICAM links.
3. Report from Charlie on Towns which were successful and what they did.
4. Defensive work/rebuttal by Harvey.

Public Safety Committee would like to be kept aware of expenses going on with the Police and Fire Departments for the next five months.

Peter D. left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Howe, to approve Minutes of October 24, 2017. UNANIMOUS.

NEXT MEEETING DATE/ ADJOURNMENT

December 12, 2017, was set for the next discussion.

Linda A. moved, seconded by H. Schwartz, to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. UNANIMOUS.