

**IPSWICH PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 6, 2022
ROOM A, TOWN HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. with the following members present: Chief P. Parisi, Chief P. Nikas, C. Surpitski, T. Jones, K. Buhl, H. Schwartz, J. Fay, Deputy Chief L. Prentiss, and J. Emerson. Also present were Town Manager Stephen Crane, J. Sarni (Design Review Board), and M. Delai (Climate Resiliency Committee). Absent were R. Donahue, P. Dziadose, and D. Morris.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None.

DISCUSSION ON MOVING AHEAD WITH PROPOSAL

Bob felt that the Committee needs a chance to talk regarding TGAS' estimate which is over the fixed price for the public safety building. On 11/23, the Working Group on Zoom got the news that Ted had given considerable thought about the project and produced a smaller floor plan. Following Thanksgiving, Joe Sullivan (OPM), talked about the project and produced a smaller floor plan. The Working group met the following Tuesday morning to talk around job costing and strategies.

Town Manager Stephen Crane explained that, because the estimate was not close enough to approve, several steps back must be taken to look at the schematic with its \$5 million figure over the construction budget. Site work is up that much because of the marketplace (inflation), and the mechanical arrangements (i.e., heating systems) are the most striking spike in costs. The designer was told that our needs are to be building as fossil-free as possible, but the bad news is that we need to find resources to enable us to do the system that we want. He met with the Public Safety Reuse Committee who are taking a longer view, and the availability of reuse is impacted by what we are doing here.

Bob spoke about the need to tell the community that a "needs analysis" was made and moving the project to "essential"; hence, the design reflects needs. Harvey and Kendall asked about the reduced-design choices. Bob explained and gave as an example: the Fire Training Room which could be used for community meetings. Mr. Crane commented that these town-wide police/fire services should have the most resilient building. Tammy asked if we could reuse the present fire station for some areas. Kendall's reply was that we promised the townspeople "a place for tomorrow."

Jamie commented that TGAS' designed building could be more efficient and cost effective, and Mary said that, to save money with fewer space reductions, there is room for potential sources that will save money with tax credits: ELD owning the lighting system and a tax-exempt lease for geo-thermal heat. Messaging is still important. Mary and Bob spoke of four options for heating. National Grid has already published incentives, Federal tax credits are

refundable to cities/towns, other grants (including a potential \$400,000 one), and flexibility for the next few months, gave Mary hope.

Chief Parisi, feeling heart-sick, asked how we tell the tax-payers of the 18% reduction and the compromises in services. Chief Nikas said we should be messaging the townspeople now that all our needs can't be achieved in the \$25 million building, and with our support, maybe some people could make donations. Charlie spoke of extraordinary times—the time for the whole project is now, and if we sell it short, we spin off progress. He would not be opposed to telling the townspeople that we are giving the people what we said we were going to do.

To Kendall's question of what kind of timeline we are looking at if we decide to go to Town Meeting (and a possible pause), Jamie replied that we need to keep moving forward, start drafting in February, and have a place holder by the end of January. Chief Nikas urged not going to the Town, keeping up the designing, and finding opportunities/options. Bob commented that everything has to be on an equal level. Jamie expressed disappointment in the OPM and asked for the Project Manager's help to get this back on track. To Kendall's question of the reason we aren't clearing the land for the project and taking steps that we could take, was answered by Bob: "we don't have permits to do this yet". When Mary asked if anybody has engaged our legislative group, Tammy responded that there might be something recouped from the Public Safety umbrella in State government, and she could put out feelers re that. Chief Parisi spoke of infrastructure through the Federal government. The Town Manager will likely talk to the Select Board.

NEXT MEETING

While there was no definite date, Bob will speak with the OPM and architect re Dec 20.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tammy moved, seconded by Chief Parisi, to approve Minutes of 11/16/22.

UNANIMOUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Tammy moved, seconded by Charlie, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. UNANIMOUS.