

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: R. Donahue, H. Schwartz, L. Alexson, C. Surpitski, P. Polonsky, Chief P. Nikas, K. Carlson, J. Fay, and J. Emerson. Absent: T. Jones, Chief A. Theriault, P. Dziadose, R. McShera.

CITIZEN QUERIES

John Sarni of Little Neck is interested in architecture, especially as it applies to the current Fire Station and his desire to preserve its architecture for reuse. A three-year resident, he had lived in Andover for 30 years and compared a fire station being built there in keeping with that town's architecture. He said that Ipswich people were not impressed with sketches of an Ipswich facility. Linda commented that at Town Meeting, a "Reuse Committee" came up, and she would like to see it formed before the Fall Town Meeting.

PRESENTATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FINAL REPORT BY JANET SLEMENDA OF HKT

Bob and Charlie spoke to the one-year discussion of the architectural process for design and affordability and the fact that the Fall Town Meeting (2020) was on point with a piece of property that will work, shows that the residents have an interest in this project, and we should highlight that we have a great site.

Referencing her Executive Summary, Bob introduced Janet Slemenda of HKT who began with her Cost Analysis, remarking that costs in the last few months (of pandemic) have dropped project costs by a few million dollars but are now beginning to rise again.

Charlie referred to page 8, last paragraph, re the ambulance as a "fait accompli". While it is something to plan for, it would be better to tweak the wording. Some residents in town have a strong feeling re personnel as well as space discussions. Chief Nikas recalled that Fire Chief Theriault, in discussing space for vehicles in the apparatus bays, felt that the smallest he would consider would be four bays so that he could make an adjustment to put an ambulance in the forefront in the future. Charlie also commented on the lack of mention of the areas beyond Police and Fire: Communications, Emergency Management, Harbormaster, Shellfish, and Animal Control. Chief Nikas said he could work on that along with the need for emergency equipment (marine use in winter) in inside storage rather than outside.

Time frame for getting the final report edited and completed was discussed. It began with the report on sites studied by Public Safety Study Committees as early as 1953 and recently coordinated by Police Chief Nikas, Retired Chief Surpitski, and Jean Emerson. It was decided that the sites study presents evidence of the vast periods of time spent looking all over town at various sites over the years with thoroughness and dedication to the task and agreed that the document will be made available on the webpage and within HKT's report.

Janet presented several designs of a proposed facility on Linebrook/Pine Swamp Roads with pitched roofs because townspeople had voiced negative opinions re flat roofs. The group thanked her for all the different versions of pitched roofs and then talked about a presentation to the public re a “classic Ipswich building.” Some members offered a depiction of a flat roof and a pitched roof. Janet said that not too many people engage in design participation—mostly neighbors. Edits must go to Janet by March 2. The next step for HKT is to refine the report with a target date of March 22 for presentation to the Select Board. Janet will send the Powerpoint to PSFC to focus on design, roof, etc. changing window patterns. Janet left Zoom at 8:50 p.m.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF VOTER AND COMMITTEE OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Bob reported that Jamie Fay suggested that Town Moderator Murphy could give PSFC a minute to make a report at May Town Meeting. Also, PSFC should ask Janet to craft a statement about her team’s perspective on why Winthrop is not the best site, including the building itself as fire/police space.

Rob suggested that we should sit down with each individual member of the Tri Board before we meet with them. In addition to the Sites Studied document, Chief Theriault’s response time report is promised within a week or two, comparing response time from the Central Street site and the Linebrook site.

With meetings ahead for PSFC, Linda urged that these be broadcast on ICAM and Bob will speak to ICAM personnel. Rob can push a link to record our meetings. Charlie moved, seconded by Linda, to investigate and accomplish that PSFC meetings be on ICAM. Roll call IN FAVOR: Harvey, Bob, Keith, Paul N., Charlie, Linda, Rob, Paul P., and Jean.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2021

Bob amended a sentence to read: PSFC will attend a School Committee meeting in an effort to align all our views so that the PS building complex is built prior to a new elementary school. Paul N. moved, seconded by Harvey, to approve the Minutes of 1/26/21 as amended. Roll call IN FAVOR: Harvey, Bob, Paul N., Keith, Charlie, Rob, Paul P., Jean; Linda abstaining.

NEXT MEETINGS

PSFC at School Committee	March 4
PSFC on Zoom	March 11
PSFC at Finance Committee	March 16
PSFC at Select Board	March 22
PSFC on Zoom	March 23

ADJOURNMENT

Linda moved to adjourn at 9:21 p.m., seconded by Rob. Roll call IN FAVOR: Harvey, Bob, Paul N., Keith, Charlie, Rob, Paul P., Linda, Jean.