

Informal Meeting of PSFC
March 10, 2020

Due to lack of a quorum, Harvey, Chief Nikas, Keith, Ryan, Linda, Rob, and Jean had an informal meeting which can't be put into the records. Eight members constitutes a quorum. Jeff French attended as well.

The Mike Johnson/Carolyn Britt team, chairs of the town's Climate Resiliency Committee, spoke with us at some length. Their group has been accepted into the Massachusetts Green Committee program which has five criteria but basically requires the Town to reduce municipal energy costs in five years. Ipswich must develop a plan on how to get there. If that happens, a grant for \$149,000 would be awarded for the HS/MS, library, and other projects for Year 1. Building a new project like the public safety facility would mean that "all operations will be done in the most energy-efficient manner."

Rob, Ryan, and Chief Nikas assured the two that the architect was hired because she believes in energy efficiency. Mike spoke of "tightly constructed" methods with renewable generation; for example, as much southerly roofing as possible. Our plan is for flat roofing which can carry solar installation that will not be intrusive because of the slope of the site and the building(s) will be facing south. Harvey mentioned voltaic with a backup battery system. Mike mentioned Federal and State grant opportunities here.

Electric vehicle charging stations are in the future. The Chief announced that the Police Department has ordered two new electric sedans and 15 parking spaces have been eliminated on the site as a result of a study with the two chiefs re personnel. Mike mentioned light shafts (Plexiglas tubes) put into the roof to let light shine down onto any floor in a living area, such as a "booking" area in the prison cell area.

The architect is thinking about the "look" of the building, and she will provide pictures of heights of current buildings in town when presentations are made to the public for comparisons of the height of the new facility. Ryan described the merits of "white rubber roofing" and much improved installation in today's generation when Jean questioned rubber roof leaking of schools over the years. Radiant heat is necessary. Building impervious surfaces are necessary for any flooding events (example: heavy rains downtown).

Rob and Ryan discussed two options to submit to the town—a price and an alternate price with the zero-carbon figure and educating the public about the tradeoff in later years when maintenance expenses are less with more efficient ways of heating the buildings (return on your money). Geothermal now has a six-year payback.

Mike gave an open offer to help us. Harvey urged them toward the pushing of our goals as a PSFC committee to other committees and residents in town. The Green Committee, he said, will probably be proposing that the municipal government go for zero carbon at the fall

Town Meeting or the Spring Annual Meeting. By 2040-50, the focus is on zero carbon. Higher costs of building now eliminate retrofitting costs in ten to twenty years.

Discussion ended at 8:23 p.m. Next meeting is April 14. See you then.

Jean