

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
IPSWICH FIRE STATION
JUNE 30, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the ladder-truck bay with the following members present: H. Schwartz, D. Morris, Chief P. Nikas, Chief A. Theriault, T. Jones, R. Donahue, C. Surpitski, L. Alexson, K. Carlson, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. Absent: J. Fay.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None.

INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION ON OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

Bob introduced Rami Harb as the new member replacing Ryan McShera, and he greeted the firefighters: Jeff Stone, Union representative, Gus, Nich, and Jack. Town Manager Tony Marino was present as well.

Mr. Marino spoke of the Town's "Net Zero Carbon Resolution" which says that all new municipal buildings must heat and cool without fossil fuels. Heat pumps get their happy temperature from the ground or from the air. Ground source, i.e., geothermal, is simpler and does not include the fan boxes and roof additions where they age hard. The Electric Light Department will try to get involved and will be a benefit to PSFC. He spoke of a construction manager and an OPM for the design stage, with a guaranteed maximum price (GMP), usually at 15-18% of the original amount. The Town Manager stated that he has done three projects like this and the OPM hiring would come first. Tammy commented that the heat pump would pay for itself in seven years.

UPDATES ON COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC

Bob spoke of Jean's letter in LOCAL IPSWICH NEWS and Harvey has put up three different Facebook posts. Tammy stressed the need for School Committee, Finance Committee, etc. to all be on the same page that the school project is not ready to go forward yet. Neither of the Chiefs had seen any negative commentary.

Charlie and Rob promised to pick up the Political Action Committee apart from PSFC, speaking about it on July 13 when the committee meets next. The video to be created at the time of the Warrant Article presentation for October's Town Meeting will be updated by Chief Nikas and done by police in their spare time. Jamie Fay will speak about the Essex facility at the next meeting.

Discussion on venues for public education re the new public safety building brought up suggestions for the Catholic church (Peter will follow up for a meeting there in August). Siobhan suggested the High School in September where videos could be shown. When Rob

mentioned that some townspeople do not like the look of the proposed building, Mr. Marino said he could get in touch with some people to do something about the design of the building.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS

Bob spoke of recent conversation with Fire Union President Jeff Stone. Chief Nikas commented that we need to embarrass this town since Salisbury, Newbury, Rowley, Essex, and now Middleton have built/are building new public safety facilities and Ipswich has NOT.

Several firefighters spoke of eliminated spaces in the proposed fire facility plan; namely, garage bays and bunk room numbers/sizes. They spoke of eventual ambulance space needs for vehicles. In discussion, it was clarified that there are 4 proposed bays for apparatus at the Linebrook Road level and room under the ground level bay areas for several other vehicles including the rescue boats for both departments. Comment was made that it would be beneficial for voters to hear that the new truck that the Fire Department has just received must now sit outside in the winter.

Secondly, bunks are too few, and the following circumstances were cited: storms where firefighters are called in for extra coverage and often must sleep there, the hiring of a woman firefighter, and the hiring of ambulance drivers beyond the current 16 regular firefighters. Rooms must be available for the future and be added to the proposal.

Thirdly, some type of training facility is needed. A grant option was mentioned.

PSFC members felt they hadn't heard about the concerns of the firefighters and were pleased at the information just gained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rob moved, seconded by Harvey, to approve PSFC Minutes of 5/15/21. UNANIMOUS with L. Alexson, P. Nikas, and K. Carlson abstaining.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Police Station at 7 p.m. on July 13, 2021 in the bay tent.

ADJOURNMENT

Harvey moved, seconded by Tammy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. UNANIMOUS.