

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
AUGUST 10, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: L. Alexson, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, D. Morris, H. Schwartz, R. Harb, J. Fay, T. Jones, R. Donahue, Acting Fire Chief L. Prentiss, Chief P. Nikas, and J. Emerson. Absent: K. Carlson.

CITIZEN QUERIES

Bob introduced Jake Rogers of 15 Arrowhead Trail who said he would like to host an advocacy committee.

ESSEX FIRE STATION TOUR

Bob thanked Jamie Fay for organizing the tour of the new combined Police/Fire facility in Essex. Several members of the Ipswich Finance Committee and School Committee attended the tour along with PSFC members and now PSFC is asking Fin Com and School Com members to take tours of Ipswich Police and Fire facilities. Rob commented that we must convince Ipswich that we need the space when we currently don't have the room to even have a conversation with persons in the current facilities. Tammy commented that the Ipswich proposal is less than half the cost per person of the Essex project. Jamie explained that Essex made several tries for acceptance of their project, asking \$12 million in the beginning and getting it for \$17+ million in 2019.

TRI BOARD MEETING

On August 17, PSFC will meet with the TriBoard, and Bob urged PSFC members to attend. Police Chief Nikas and Acting Fire Chief Prentiss will speak to the worst that could happen in regard to the old, inefficient current facilities that don't meet Ipswich's current programs. Chief Nikas compared the new Ashland's (MA) combined facility (population: 16,593) and square feet (42,000) to Ipswich's (population: 14,000) and proposed square feet (29,558) with the Ashland police staff @30 and fire staff @22 fulltime and 4 call to Ipswich police staff @25 and fire staff @19 fulltime and 8 call. Ipswich will have three more departments (Harbors, Shellfish, and Animal Control) under the same roof compared to Ashland. Chief Nikas said the proposal with HKT architect is projected out for 30 years.

Bob asked the question for Tri Board: What is the risk of doing nothing? There were many answers, "safety for the residents" being among the strongest.

Dan Morris, dispatcher for the Police Dept., distributed a sheet of calls to the dispatcher at the Police Station for the January-July, 2021, time period: 911, business -line calls, walk-in reports, and lobby assists @24,499. In addition, the detective handles 60-80 matters which are private, as well as moorings and firearm calls not listed along with the Harbors, Animal Control, and Shellfish Departments. Ipswich has a community of policing and taking care of people with a famous beach, a forest, a river, and a bay, included in its 33 square miles of territory. The

situation at the Police Station where people with problems cannot be isolated because Ipswich cannot provide them with enough space causes greater stress to all involved. The current buildings (Fire and Police) cannot currently be operated efficiently.

TOURS

After considerable discussion, plans were made for Peter to contact the Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, and Our Lady of Hope (9/21) for gatherings. Bob Weatherall will talk to ICAM re online tours of the current Fire and Police Stations with our own videos and will talk to Rev. Pugh for a possible gathering at the First Church.

Before the TriBoard meeting on August 17, the Fire Department will conduct Open House at 5 p.m. and the Police Department will do the same at 6 p.m. Mike Johnson will present "Climate Action on the Riverwalk" at 4 p.m.

Schedules for meetings will be put in the local newspaper every week.

NEXT MEETING

TriBoard meeting: 7 p.m., August 17, Town Hall

PSFC meeting: 7 p.m., August 24, Town Hall

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Tammy, to approve Minutes of July 28, 2021. UNANIMOUS with J. Fay, R. Weatherall, and R. Harb abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda moved, seconded by Harvey, to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. UNANIMOUS.