

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Via Zoom

August 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. with the following members present: T. Jones, J. Fay, K. Carlson, R. Donahue, C. Surpitski, H. Schwartz, L. Alexson, R. McShera, P. Nikas, and J. Emerson. Absent were Chief A. Theriault, Det. P. Dziadose, and P. Polonsky. Tony Marino, Ipswich Town Manager, was an invited guest along with Town Moderator Tom Murphy and Deputy Fire Chief Lee Prentiss.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None

REPORT ON FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECT BOARD MEETINGS RE PSFC

Bob thanked the TM for attending. Tammy began by commenting on her discussion with the Town Manager and his approach for presenting at Town Meeting on two occasions, the first for the land purchase and one at a later date for the building.

Mr. Marino explained that the feeling should not be that there is a rush. Rather, he advised to buy the land and not waste any money (with reference to the failed school project). The design will take eight months and, at that time, there will be a hard number for construction when we could come back in May or even October of 2021. His recommendation would be to go with the land and the design, looking at a \$2.8 million approximation for the land/design. Jamie Fay felt that, with no right answers currently, the land acquisition and design should give a pretty good idea of project cost. The Finance Committee questions how the project fits into the Town's future expenses. Discussion ensued re the desirability of a design in the event the design figure failed to be approved now. Janet of HKT has previously stated that a design has a 30-month "life". Also, votes of Select Board and Finance Committee approval would likely be more assured once a firm number became available. Bob felt it is the PSFC's job to assess the need, knowing now where we want the facility and fairly certain of the design which must then have all the pertinent Town Boards advocating for it as well.

Chief Nikas spoke of the need this year to get the design completed and still move forward. The TM informed the Committee that the design project goes out to bid (a 30-day time period) and review of comparative criteria as momentum continues. There is currently a Strategic Planning Working Group which slates the Public Safety Facility for FY21-23 and the elementary school building for FY28-29. The TM advised that the design process is a great time to get and build support with community input once plans are seen. Harvey commented that he sees no downside to this plan which does not affect the ultimate completion date and makes it seem more deliberate and conservative. Jamie suggested an agenda item at the upcoming TriBoard meeting.

Charlie moved, seconded by Tammy, to pursue a purchase of land and design at the October 17 Town Meeting. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Weatherall, Donahue, Jones, Surpitski, Carlson, McShera, Faye, Schwartz, Nikas, Alexson, Emerson.

After discussion, Charlie moved, seconded by Linda, to ask the Select Board to propose two Warrant Articles at the October Town Meeting—one to purchase the eight acres of land on Linebrook/Pine Swamp Roads and a second one to appropriate a sum of money for a design of the public safety facility on that property. Roll call IN FAVOR- Weatherall, Donahue, Jones, Surpitski, Carlson, McShera, Faye, Schwartz, Nikas, Alexson, Emerson.

The TM will craft the Articles. The survey of the site has gone through the proper channels with the Conservation Commission and wetlands have all been flagged. Janet of HKT and the TM have agreed that enough funding is available to do a 3-D rendering of the structure. Bob and Janet have talked through the design, focusing on the images that committee members most want to see, using the new wetlands acreage as a guide.

VIRTUAL TOUR/VIDEO/SCRIPT

Chief Nikas expects that new videos to comply with the Police narrative will be completed within the next ten days and the town's Public Safety blog is being built by the town's Public Relations Board. Rob mentioned a FAQ which needs an answer, suggesting that the Select Board have discussion regarding the current Fire and Police stations. Plans were made to reach out to the Chairs of the Select Board, the Finance Committee, and the School Committee in an effort to gain support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rob moved, seconded by Harvey, to approve Minutes of August 4, 2020. Roll call IN FAVOR: Donahue, Jones, McShera, Carlson, Nikas, Surpitski, Schwartz, Emerson; Abstaining: Alexson, Weatherall, Fay.

NEW BUSINESS

Harvey questioned how the ballot item would be handled in the COVID pandemic. Bob will speak to the Town Clerk. Discussion ensued relative to a meeting for interested townspeople, a virtual meeting with live questions, and/or a blog that will bring questions.

The next meeting date is set for September 1. Agenda items include the Warrant Articles, and information for the public including an item for the local paper, Facebook, and ICAM.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Rob, to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Roll call IN FAVOR: Donahue, Nikas, Weatherall, Carlson, Fay, McShera, Surpitski, Alexson, Schwartz, Jones, and Emerson.