

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
via Zoom
September 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present: H. Schwartz, R. Donahue, L. Alexson, K. Carlson, P. Polonsky, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, Chief P. Nikas, J. Fay, R. McShera, and J. Emerson. Absent were T. Jones and Chief A. Theriault.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None

UPDATE ON VIRTUAL TOUR/SCRIPT EDITING

Bob began with discussion regarding tomorrow night's Tri-Board meeting to take place on Town Hall property under a tent. Rob projected the agenda for that meeting for PSFC members to view, three topics of which were pertinent to Public Safety discussions. Bob, Harvey, Rob, and Chief Nikas plan to attend. Chief Nikas reported that HKT architect Janet Slemenda has released material re the site for the public safety facility, and Sarah Johnson, Finance Director, has done numbers for cost and tax bases. The Superintendent of Schools will be putting PSFC on the School Committee agenda to explain our thought process re working together before the October 17 Town Meeting. Having contacted the SC Chair, Bob said there would be conversation at the TriBoard meeting on September 2.

Chief Nikas reported that videos of the current Fire/Police stations were reshot today and portions of that were shown to committee members. Comments were favorable and Charlie asked if pictures could be shown re the congestion at the close of the Winthrop School day. PSFC has been updated with a "wet blog" (a quick place to get public information), and will be generating more traffic, another way to be more transparent and get more information to the public.

STRATEGIES ON PUBLIC OUTREACH AND TOWN MEETING PREPARATION

Conversation continued with items to think about: (1)Facebook, (2)an informational newspaper article (rather than Letter to the Editor) with plot plan, and (3)ICAM when both Chiefs and PSFC Chair will be explaining the project. Bob will speak with Town Moderator and Town Manager re a pre-Town Meeting discussion. Jamie Fay added the ballot vote item for discussion because voting will involve raising taxes. Jamie said he would try to assure that the Fin Com information booklet includes the new public safety facility but cautioned against advocating for it as only private groups can advocate. Charlie read an excerpt from a 1976 newspaper article about the police station and its lack of safety and stressed the need to anticipate questions from the public, especially those which are negative.

Timeline for future meetings:

September 8 - Warrant Article hearings.

September 16 – via Zoom (the date being moved to Wednesday because of conflicts with Finance Committee meeting) with two goals: (1) preparation for “under the tent” questions/answers to the public’s questions on September 29 when they are invited to join the meeting and (2) visual aids for the October 17 Town Meeting.

September 29 - PSFC will meet with the public in a tent beginning at 6 p.m. as a high-level presentation with questions from the audience to follow. Harvey was delegated to announce this public meeting on Facebook and to write an article in IPSWICH LOCAL NEWS.

October 13 - via Zoom prior to Town Meeting on October 17 as a strategic presentation to run through the Town Meeting process: who presents the Articles for purchase of land and payment for design, who speaks on each subject, different PSFC faces who stand up and speak, support from the Select Board and Finance Committee.

While physical presence would be better for presentation, printed handouts could be substituted. Visuals of wetlands, elevations, layovers, and building placement presentations must be ready to go. Bob will speak to the Moderator about what we hope to discuss and anticipates speaking to the prominent Town committees to make them feel better about this project, making progress by working together in an orderly way.

Rob will try to get visuals on the public website when weather could be a problem. Jamie commented that graphics are beneficial, and Bob commented that architectural renderings won’t require much paper for handouts.

October 17 – Town Meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18

Linda amended the Minutes under “Report on Finance Committee and Select Board Meetings re PSFC” to strike out “Working Group (TriBoard)” and substitute “Strategic Planning Working Group” and moved to approve Minutes of August 18, seconded by Harvey. Roll call IN FAVOR- Donahue, Weatherall, Schwartz, Emerson, Surpitski, Carlson, McShera, Fay, Polonsky, Nikas, Alexson.

NEXT MEETING

September 16 on Zoom at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Rob moved, seconded by Charlie, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Roll call IN FAVOR- Donahue, Weatherall, Schwartz, Emerson, Surpitski, Carlson, McShera, Fay, Nikas; Polonsky, Alexson, Dziadose.