

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tent outside TOWN HALL, GREEN STREET**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Temporary Chair Rob Donahue called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. with the following members present: Chief A. Theriault, Chief P Nikas, L. Alexson, T. Jones, R. McShera, P. Dziadose, and J. Emerson. Absent were R. Weatherall, H. Schwartz, K. Carlson, J. Fay, C. Surpitski, and P. Polonsky.

Members introduced themselves to citizens who were seated and socially distanced under the tent with them.

**QUESTIONS**

Tammy began by explaining the upcoming Warrant Articles at Town Meeting to take place on October 17 as two Articles, one for the purchase of the piece of land to build the facility because it is the only piece of land near the center of town, the church wants to partner with us, and funds are already identified. The second Article is an override of \$2.25 million for a "Design for a Proposed Safety Building." Rob added that this design will run as a bond that will cost the homeowner of a \$500,000 property \$20 annually in taxes.

A resident of one and a half years, Sam Robertson, suggested a "construction manager advisor" as a way to break down quality costs in a cheaper way. Nikas explained that the mandate for a municipal building approved by the State, is to hire an OPM who will do exactly what Sam suggests, working with the Town and going along exactly with the Town's needs. Sam was urged to get involved with PSFC. Robertson commented that \$27 million is scaring people, and Chief Nikas corrected him with the \$23 million number which will not be exceeded.

Bill Graham asked why a project manager costs \$640,000 and, in comparing Essex' new building @ \$17.5 million, asked why Ipswich couldn't pick that builder. Nikas explained that Essex cannot be compared because their firefighters are all call men and do not sleep at the station. As a better comparison, he mentioned Charlton (12,981 population) at \$28.5 million (2021) to Ipswich (13,804 population) with comparative numbers for police officers, firefighters (full time and call), Dispatch, and Emergency Management. In addition, Ipswich includes Shellfish, Harbor Patrol, and Animal Control within the new facility. Having gone over the numbers three times with management and the architect, three reductions in space and cost have been made.

Rob spoke of the consolidation aspect with the combining of two facilities. For instance, when a large incident occurred in Ipswich in a recent winter, Town Hall, which was not open, was the place where evacuated residents were forced to go. The new facility will accommodate emergency situations.

Mr. Graham spoke of the failure of the school project in 2019 and the loss of multiple dollars in architectural fees which has voters uneasy and asked that PSFC paint a better picture

of what the realistic ultimate cost will be. Rob assured him that, relying on our HKT experts, it will be the \$23 million figure.

John Stump of Hodges Way (and his friends) approve of the land purchase but are concerned that spending will end up with nothing. He urged that the Town come as close as possible to the “real number”, bringing the question of the square-foot cost to the Town Meeting’s attention for their approval. Nikas quoted the \$23 million to build is probably what it will be, totaling \$25.5 million as a total project.

John Muldoon of Ipswich Local News and one other couple attended without comment.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Tammy moved, seconded by Linda, to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. UNANIMOUS.