

Joint Meeting  
Public Safety Facilities Task Force  
&  
Municipal Facilities Committee  
Minutes  
January 10, 2022  
9:00 am  
Zoom Remote Access

A meeting of the Public Facilities Task Force (PFTF) was held on January 10, 2022, via Zoom. Present were task force members: Christine Lear, Jerry Lerman, and Lee Storrs. Also present were Select Board member Barney Arnold (Chair) and Nathan Brown as well as Chief John Fisher (Police), Tim Goddard (Town Administrator), Kerry Kissinger (Master Plan Steering Committee), Carrie Patel (Carlisle School Committee) and Cynthia Sorn (Mosquito Reporter).

Barney Arnold stated that the Select Board had formed the task force with the purpose of looking at the town's long-term facilities needs for police and fire and if a new facility is needed. Barney noted that the Task Force reported to the Select Board and should keep the Select Board apprised on a regular basis regarding its progress and any recommendations it may be considering. The Select Board will review the Task Force's finding and recommendations to determine how it wishes to proceed.

Appointments: After a short discussion, Jerry Lerman moved that Christine Lear be appointed as Chair. This motion was seconded by Lee Storrs and passed unanimously. Lee Storrs moved that Jerry Lerman be appointed Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Christine Lear and passed unanimously.

Scope: Select Board members stated that the task force should take a broad view of its scope and should consider all potential possibilities. Some of the factors that should be considered by the task force include:

1. What are the needs for both the police and fire departments both currently and in the foreseeable future?
2. Anticipated changes in the operation of either the police or fire department.
3. Should the police and fire departments be housed in a single facility. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
4. Should one, or both, of the existing facilities be renovated, expanded, or rebuilt.
5. What are the costs for the various options being considered? The SB noted that when the PFTF gets to this stage, in addition to keeping the SB updated, they should also periodically update the Finance Committee.
6. Where would the facility (s) be located.
7. What property does the town own and would it be suitable for a new facility or facilities
8. Should the town consider purchasing a property(s) and if so, how do the communities other needs play into this recommendation.

Inputs: Some of the inputs the Task Force needs to consider include:

1. Police and fire chiefs' knowledge, experience, thoughts, vision, and recommendations
2. Past studies
3. Review of how other towns of similar size and character have addressed this issue. Chief Fisher referenced the Town of Avon as an example of a community that had taken a long-term approach.
4. Master Plan recommendations – It was noted that these recommendations of the Master Plan Steering Committee are anticipated in February.
5. Governance Committee Task Force

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6. Community Members – Chief Fisher noted that John Ballantine’s group had done some work looking into police station needs.
7. Outside Paid Consultants

Other Considerations: Other considerations that the task force should factor in include.

1. Funding – Tim Goddard noted that he would check to see if there were any funds available to the PFTF if the wished to consider hiring an outside consultant.
2. Town Meetings – The SB is not anticipating any recommendations will be ready for spring Town Meeting (TM) as the warrant will be finalized in February. However, if the Task Force wanted to hire an outside consultant, they may wish to consider a warrant article for the meeting. The SB noted that they would prefer not to have a fall TM. It was noted that the spring 2023 TM may be realistic target.
3. Regionalization – Kerry Kissinger noted that the PFTF should consider the potential for regionalization including the dispatch center. Chief Fisher noted that he has investigated this in the past. He noted that one issue that seems to consistently come up as a sticking point is which community will house the dispatch center with each community looking for the facility to be in their town.
4. Quality Plans –Chief Fisher noted that the previous effort to address the police station issues did not end up addressing the underlying long-term issues with the facility. He stated that he believed that the PFTF should develop a 30–40-year solution to the town’s public safety needs. He noted that he felt that the previous police station project ended up being an interim fix of some of the issues.

Meetings: It was decided that the PFTF would try to meet every other week. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday January 18, 2022, at 9:00 am.

Submitted by Edward Storrs.

Unanimously approved on January 18, 2022.