

Joint Meeting
Public Safety Facilities Task Force
&
Municipal Facilities Committee
Minutes
March 14, 2022, 9:00 am
Zoom Remote Access

Members in attendance: Jerry Lerman, Bill Risso, Lee Storrs, Ingo

Others in attendance: John Fisher (Police Chief), Bryan Sorrows (Fire Chief), Cynthia Sorn (Carlisle Mosquito)

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:09AM

- II. 1/18/2022, 1/31/2022, 2/14/202, and 2/28/2022 Meeting minutes approved. Moved- Lee Storrs, 2nd- Bill Risso.

- III. Discussion of recent facilities visits – Jerry asked for each member’s thoughts following the site visits to the police and fire stations. Lee Storrs stated that he did not believe it was feasible to address the long-term police station needs on the current site because it was too space limited. Lee stated that it appears that expansion is possible at the fire department site but that this site had its challenges, and a renovation project would be very disruptive and would add to the construction cost. Bill Risso stated that the wetlands issue should be looked at on the fire department site. If the wetlands issues could be addressed this would help in addressing the overall space constraint issues. Bill stated that these projects should address the town’s longer term needs for these facilities (next 40-50 years) and that the police station site was too small to consider expansion on its existing site. Jerry stated that both buildings are currently marginally adequate and there is no room for expansion. Jerry stated that options were relatively limited and included: 1. Renovate the fire department building, 2. Renovate the police building, 3. Build new separate buildings, 4. Build a new combined building, 5. A combination of build renovate new/existing buildings.

- IV. Next Steps – Input was requested from the Task Force members regarding possible next steps. Some of the information that may be beneficial for the Task Force include getting a rough estimate regarding the various options and considering if there was any benefit to regionalizing the fire or police department. Chief Fisher noted that the studies from John Ballentine’s group provided some pretty good rough numbers. Chief Fisher noted that this study had come up with rough numbers of \$21million for a new combined facility, approximately \$7 million for a new police station based upon the project in Avon which was completed approximately 3 years ago, and \$6 million for renovation of the police station. It was noted that the cost for a new combined facility was approximately 1/3 more than a separate new police station and renovation of the fire station.

Chief Fisher noted that there had been some money voted and approved at a previous town meeting for the renovation of the police station. However, when the bids came in for the project the cost were significantly higher than the funding available and the project was put on hold. In addition, the proposed improvements were not a long-term fix for the police station. The town may decide to rescind this funding at a future town meeting given that the project does not meet long term needs.

It was noted that the long term needs for the police have been looked at in previous studies however a similar study had not been performed for the fire station. Chief Sorrows noted that funds had been allocated for a study of the fire department needs. The facility committee had put out an RFP to look

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at the fire department needs several months ago. Some proposals received and Johnson Roberts had submitted a proposal that was within the amount funded. It was noted that if this study was conducted it would provide additional information to the Task Force. If a renovation of the Fire Department building was being considered, a feasibility study would be required to determine if the building could be expanded/renovated and how the cost for renovating the building compared with building new. The Task Force agreed that there would be a benefit to completing the needs assessment for the Fire Department. It was noted that Stewart Roberts lives in the area and that it would make sense to see if Johnson Roberts would still be willing to complete this assessment. The Task Force agreed that it would be beneficial to see if Stewart Roberts could attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the RFP scope and project in general.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 10:06AM

Submitted by Lee Storrs

Approved: Unanimously approved on April 25, 2022