

## **Public Safety Building Committee Meeting 9/12/16     Draft Minutes**

Committee Members Present: David Bowles, Penny Colby, Rich Colcord, Martin Frank, Jim Hidden, Dan Poirier, John Roberts, Harry Remick

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chief Colcord

Draft minutes of the previous meeting (8/15) were reviewed. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve as written.

Chief Colcord introduced Kyle Barker of WarrenStreet Architects (WA) out of Concord, NH who gave a presentation on how he and his firm could assist the committee in developing a proposal for a new public safety building to replace the current central fire station. Mr. Barker has worked with other NH communities on similar efforts including a current proposal in Tilton/Northfield.

Mr. Barker stressed his experience in pre-design and pre-planning and the importance of public involvement, for instance the use of charrettes to get public input and gather data for use in developing the best solution. Mr. Barker expressed his belief in the “wisdom of crowds” concept to get public support in advance for the proposal that ultimately has to be approved by the voters.

Mr. Barker said it is important to define the needs related to a new building, what departments would be housed. In his experience he has found there is often little financial or functional benefit to combining police and fire departments in a single building. Chief Colby indicated the current PD building is adequate in size but needs functional upgrades.

When told the timeline for the new building is likely 5 years or more he said having that much time should be beneficial to a successful outcome.

Mr. Barker said it will be important to identify opinion leaders in the community and get them involved in the process early on to help gain public support and that transparency matters.

He discussed the pros and cons of “one-and-done” vs. bonding to take advantage of low interest rates. One advantage of bonding is spreading the cost over a larger group of taxpayers over the bond’s lifetime. He said in the end projects he has been involved with succeed or fail more on finances not needs assessments, building plans or site considerations.

There was discussion about how WA would provide their services and the possible cost.

The committee thanked Mr. Barker for his time and information. After he left the meeting committee members agreed to interview at least two additional consultants before reaching any decision about developing any proposal to take to town meeting.

Dan Poirier indicated there are funds included in the CIP that can be used for this purpose if approved.

David Bowles said the committee should focus first on site ID and purchase because appropriate sites are scarce.

Dan Poirier said the building design is critical because the site can’t be approved without the building concept in place.

John Roberts stressed the need to plan for the long term, to consider future needs not just present since a new building's useful lifespan could be 75 years or more.

Chief Colby will provide info related to adequacy and needs at current PD building for next meeting.

Martin Frank will get adequacy info from Chief Colcord and submit with minutes for next meeting discussion.

Chief Colcord will invite 2 additional consultants to give presentations at the next meeting.

The next committee meeting will be 11/14/16, 7 PM at the Central Fire Station.

Motion made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Martin Frank, Committee Secretary