

Town of Brookfield
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

Municipal Facilities Planning Committee

Minutes

6:30 Monday, December 19th, 2011
Location: Elementary School Library

Members Present:

Stephen J. Comtois II
Donald Faugno
Roger Mundell Jr.
Jeanne Myers
Carol Plumb
William R. Simpson
Don Taft

Members Not Present:

Bruce Clarke
Peter Martell

Citizens/Guests Present:

David Holdcraft
Kermit Eaton
Police Chief Michael Blanchard

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Comtois followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Report from Mr. Eaton regarding Police Station search committee

Mr. Eaton reported on previous work completed by a committee in 2008 to determine a location for the Police station. He indicated that a contact at Reinhart associates in Agawam may be able to provide more cost data to help with cost estimating for a new station. He mentioned that the number of calls for service and the needs of the police impact the final design.

Mr. Taft agreed to seek out more information from Mr. Eaton's contact at Reinhart Associates.

2. Further Police Station discussion with police chief Blanchard

The committee discussed alternate locations for the police station including renovation of the existing rental property, the State Police Barracks in Brookfield, and other properties that may be available in town.

Mr. Comtois agreed to speak with a property owner that approached him about a property that may be available for purchase. Chief Blanchard agreed to speak with the State Police to determine if they would be willing or able to part with their building.

Chief Blanchard then described the deficiencies with the current arrangement such as: single residential bathroom, no public restrooms, no division between public space and police space, no sally port, the building is not handicap accessible, the records storage and evidence storage are in the basement with water problems, the building is on several different levels, the only meeting room doubles as an interrogation room/locker room/storage space, and the building is unprofessional and does not inspire confidence.

The committee generally agreed that as long as our continued research does not present a better option, building a new Police Station on the Prouty Street property is currently the best solution.

3. Town Hall Discussion

Mr. Faugno reported that he was having difficulty providing numbers for the committee due to the complications involved in working on the Town Hall.

Mr. Simpson proposed that the committee agree on the Northwest corner of the building as a final planned location for the elevator and stair shaft.

The committee discussed that it needed cost estimates for repairing the first and second floor and installing an elevator from the basement to the third floor. It was generally agreed to leave the basement alone aside from upgrading the needed utilities.

Mr. Faguno agreed that with the aforementioned request he could provide some numbers for the next meeting.

4. Resignation of Mr. Clarke

Mr. Clark emailed his resignation to the committee due to a lack of available time to attend the meetings.

The minutes from 12/19/2011 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Faugno that was seconded by Mr. Taft.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 30th, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Elementary School.

At 8:03 the meeting was adjourned with motion by Mr. Taft and 2nd by Carol Plumb.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Simpson

Approval:

These minutes were unanimously approved at the meeting on 1.27.2012.