

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
MAY 12, 2022
ROOM C, TOWN HALL

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: R. Donohue, D. Morris, K. Buhl, H. Schwartz, C. Surpitski, P. Dziadose, T. Jones, J. Emerson, J. Fay, Chief Parisi (on Zoom), and Laura Jolly (of CPA). Absent were Chief Nikas, and R. Harb.

DISCUSSION RE INTERVIEWS OF 5/5/22

Rob commented on the matter of additional architectural firms and the situation that exists regarding the three firms which have been interviewed and which will not reapply. Jamie moved, seconded by Rob, that PSFC not reopen applications for design. UNANIMOUS.

Discussion ensued regarding unanswered questions of the firms that were interviewed [Lavallee/Brensinger and The Galante Architecture Studio (TGAS)], particularly in regard to the Wells, ME, project by Lavallee/Brensinger. Chief Parisi had spoken with the Chief from Dennis, MA (a sea-side community at which TGAS is currently the designer) who couldn't be happier and gave great feedback. While Chief Parisi and Kendall Buhl had toured 12 stations, one of which was combined facility in Wells, both men found it worth their time because of the great ideas received.

Bob asked how much the OPM picks up on. Laura explained that there are different reasons why mistakes happen, and the OPM is available to pick up on the plans. Joe Sullivan (OPM) has worked with TGAS, but Laura wasn't sure about Lavallee/Brensinger.

Jamie opined that architects let the client dictate in a way that architects think is wrong in trying to please. Tammy agreed saying that we have to trust our chosen architect, and Bob commented that a project now tight will become tighter as time goes by, and that we should really trust the architectural firm to have running room to do our project. Jamie stated that there will be a point where we will have to cut (among the mechanical systems) and most architects would encourage reducing the size of the building rather than "cheapening" everything, Chief Parisi and Bob agreeing. Harvey is comfortable that either of the two firms under consideration will do what we want the project to look like.

Options for moving ahead were discussed. Rob questioned process, referring to the elementary school project with public and School Committee input, ideas, and opinions. Bob asked if PSFC will be seeking public opinion or is the community trusting us with the checkbook. He also felt that we don't need reasons for turning an architect down. Kendall said we are serving the community just by showing them what we are doing—showing them the way, just on the looks of the buildings alone. Re the process PSFC is going through, Tammy advocated for showing the public the options and working with them as we go along to finish the questions they have about the two companies. Chief Parisi agreed with Tammy in principle but was afraid that they may use information against us if they were not selected and said he

was comfortable with putting a list of questions together. Bob said that any firm should be able to answer any question; it is the tone in answering that is important.

Jamie asked for pre-requisites. Rob replied that they must meet the standards and thus far, our climate resiliency team has been wonderful, and we must make sure that we are building to the Ipswich standards on sustainability. Bob said there wasn't a Lavalee nor Bresinger present at the interview. Rob had concerns about TGAS being so academic and everything shown by them being modern. Jean recalled a question from Chief Parisi to TGAS re "modern" and "metro", and Ted Gallante replied "we respond to the client's needs and have done so many times." Peter opined that we want "modern" inside but not on the outside.

Rob offered two options: we need to talk with the people for whom these two architects worked, and he suggested that Peter D. and Chief Nikas talk to colleagues re projects with Lavalee/Bresinger and TGAS. Bob suggested that PSFC members and/or administrators contact places where these two firms have a building project. Professionals in Ipswich should participate with people in their field. Laura affirmed that CHA will be advising. Harvey commented that, whoever does it, PSFC will have negotiations such as we have never had before. Laura said her firm will be comfortable with it.

Tammy left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Rob said that we need to come up with some questions that we are going to propose to the people involved in the building projects. Chief Parisi said, if written, they should come from the Committee, and Bob said the written questions should go to the two firms. In speaking to people in a town where a project took place, other questions can be asked.

Questions will be put together in preparation for visits by professionals to existing/in-progress facilities which have been under the architectural firms of Lavalee/Bresinger and TGAS.

NEXT MEETING

PSFC will meet on Tuesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room of Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Kendall moved, seconded by Harvey, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. UNANIMOUS.