

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
IPSWICH POLICE STATION TENT
JULY 20, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair R. Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7:05 with the following members present: D. Morris, L. Alexson, R. Harb, R. Donahue, H. Schwartz, Chief P. Nikas, K. Carlson, T. Jones, C. Surpitski, Dep. Chief L. Prentiss, and J. Emerson. Absent: A. Theriault, J. Fay.

CITIZEN QUERIES

None.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bob thanked the Police for welcoming the Committee under their tent. He spoke of the recent Finance Committee meeting and questions that came out of that discussion. J. Fay is arranging a tour of the new Essex Public Safety Facility. Tammy mentioned the programming because Essex and Rowley have very different circumstances and cannot really be compared to Ipswich. Jeff Stone, union President of the Fire Department, suggested that one of the firefighters lead a tour of the Rowley Fire Station. Charlie suggested making a list of equipment that Ipswich has versus other towns along with their cost. Rami added that current and future needs re Ipswich, Rowley, and Essex should be noted.

Dates for forums and presentations were discussed. Superintendent of Schools Blake will make the High School auditorium available (August was deemed appropriate). The Catholic Church will be a second site for September. Charlie suggested that the Linebrook Station would be a good venue.

The Tri-Board is meeting on August 17, and Bob urged that all of PSFC attend. Select Board Chair Tammy said that Strategic Planning and Public Safety are the two topics of that meeting and forecast that two pieces will be forthcoming: the plan and the endorsement. Harvey commented that it is important to get a final declaration by the School Committee that the public safety building comes first with a formal vote followed by a letter from each Board or the Tri-Board and all of these Boards, even at Town Meeting, should take the opportunity to speak favorably. Rob urged that the Chair of all three Boards earmark their attendance at our next PSFC meeting.

Chief Nikas spoke of the Ashland, MA, bulletin which their Police and Fire have put online in regard to the need for their new public safety building. Ashland has lots of energy-saving aspects. Similarities with Ipswich include comparative town population, poor conditions of current facilities, etc. Discussion then turned to the unmet needs of Ipswich. Charlie, mentioning a FinCom member's question re low fires and crimes in Ipswich, suggested a tally of how many burn permits, smoke detectors, green-head questions, etc. come in. Dan said there are 105-110 calls/day to the Police Department Communications Center and offered to tally them in their respective categories. Rami suggested providing all the facts in down-to-earth

language and giving testament to the people who work in these two departments, a factor mentioned by several PSFC members. Tammy spoke of the future community building which is going to help everybody, and we shouldn't be punishing the personnel who are doing a great job of keeping up the old buildings. Chief Nikas added that the Police station represents a lot of liability for handling unruly citizens because of the way it is constructed. Dan, Charlie, and Tammy will pursue the problematic areas including vivid pictures.

Discussion then centered on a date for Open House for these old buildings: Olde Ipswich Days, Illumination Day (9/18), Riverwalk activities (where traffic passes through the Police Station property), and a separate Public Safety Day. It became important that dates be firmed up regarding Open House for the Fire and Police Stations with a special invitation for the three Town Boards to come, see, and understand the old facilities for themselves.

Rob advocated for an organized letter in late August and signs by October 1 promoting the Public Safety facility for the October 19 Town Meeting. Also, he feels that the FAQ information need to be refreshed, and he will work with Dan and Rami.

NEXT MEETING

PSFC will meet on July 28 at the Linebrook Station (a "sandwich board" announcing the date will be erected on the Linebrook Station's premises).

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Bob did a Zoom meeting with the Planning Committee in an effort to keep them abreast of PSFC activities. Bob is meeting with one of its members soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rob moved to approve June 30, 2021, PSFC Minutes, seconded by Tammy.
UNANIMOUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Rob, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.