

TOWN OF AVON
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE
JULY 16, 2013

In Attendance:

Tracy Self, Chairman
Elaine Dombrosky
Tim Flanigan
Carl Fischer
Glenn Fernald
Jason Suzor

Absent:

Kevin Foster
Marie Drottar
Alex Sinclair

TOWN OF AVON
2013 SEP -3 PM 1:10
TOWN CLERK

The Avon Public Safety Building Committee met at Town Hall on Tuesday evening, July 16, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Self commenced the meeting by asking the committee members if they had any questions regarding the last meeting. A discussed then ensued on the existing building.

Tracy then wanted to get their thoughts on the new proposed building and how were they going to get there. Tim Flanigan brought up the cost of the building and said maybe they should start with the money available to use for this facility and go back from there. If they were to use the existing building, where would they relocate them to ... the Industrial Park? Not only do they have to build it, but the question came up as to what it was going to cost to run it, to heat it, to maintain it, etc. It was agreed that the new building would be cost efficient, but it was still going to be more expensive than the existing one.

The next item brought up was shared spaces. There could be a lot more things shared by both the Fire and Police and it was agreed that they need to cut back on duplicate things to get to a more reasonable sized facility.

Elaine Dombrosky thought they should invite the Engineer back to meet with them. After all, he was the one who put the entire design together and no one knew the plans better than he did. He could probably help them cut back on the items they really don't need. He has done all of the legwork and knows what needs to be in a Police Station as he has done many of them before. Seeing that he only knew the design of the Police side of a Public Safety Building, he was the one who had brought in someone to design the Fire side of the building.

It was brought up that maybe they could have a training room where it could be available to other cities and towns and that way they could make money on it. It was a thought and something that had come up the last time around.

Tracy continued and asked if anyone had given any thought to a potential site. The salt shed area was mentioned and a discussion took place regarding that location. Everyone agreed that the town should not have to maintain Harrison Boulevard, the lights, etc. Other potential locations were then discussed.

One option was to move the Fire and Police Station, but that would mean there would be another vacant building in the town, and they did not want that. If they did move then maybe Town Hall could move into that location. The discussion continued regarding Town Hall and how a new one was needed, as well as a Public Safety Building. Tracy went on to say that what they need to do now is to research the salt shed area and get as much information as they could possibly get to use it as a possible site.

Marie Drottar's email about Randolph's Public Safety Building was the next item on the agenda. Tracy asked if everyone had seen it. At the last meeting Marie did say that most grants were for the equipment inside the building and not for the building itself.

What about Harrison Boulevard? The Committee discussed the pros and cons of having it there. They talked about the mushroom farm on Page Street and how it was for sale. There's a lot of land there, but the owner wants a lot of money for it.

The next item brought up was the Industrial Park and the new businesses that are going in there. It's great as it helps the town, but they could also have many more businesses up there if it weren't for the fact that they do not have sewerage, but a septic system. The town has been looking into trying to get sewerage up there for quite some time now.

The Crowley School location was mentioned once again. It could definitely support the Police, but not the Fire due to the windy road. Also, the Police Chief wants his building to be visible, so that is something they need to take into consideration.

Again, Tracy asked the Committee how they would like to proceed. She thought the first thing they need to do is to look the book over very closely and examine all of the research that has already been done. There are only a couple of copies, so they would have to share them. She did say the plan does fit on the existing location, but only if they take over the gazebo area.

Jason Suzor said he spent some time looking at it and he determined that they have too many custodial closets, bathrooms, etc. He said you could start and cut back on those things. It's not necessary to have that many. Tracy said that when this plan was designed it was going to be for 50 years, but now, today, they are going to plan for only 25 years. When the existing building was built they did not have to adhere to certain building codes as they have to today. Jason noted

that in the design there were separate bedrooms. He said he has been in other Public Safety Buildings and they have just one large room with bunk beds, not separate bedrooms. The Shift Commander did have his own though. Here is another area that could be cut back on. He went on to talk about the heating system. On the design, he said it is too large an area. The heating systems today are much smaller; therefore you wouldn't need all that space.

Once again the Committee went back to the question of location – where do they want to put the building? It was agreed that the biggest drawback about using the existing location was relocating everyone. Where would they put them while the building was being built?

Tracy continued and reiterated that the first thing they should all do is to look at the book; make notes; and come back to the next meeting with questions, suggestions, etc. In the mean time they need to talk to both Chiefs and Frank Hegarty about the salt shed area. She said she would also talk to the Engineer and see about getting him here to a meeting.

Finally, DeMarco Park was brought up as a possible site and how it was a good location. It was also mentioned that it is town-owned land. Tracy did say that the town gets money for open space and they would lose it if they used that area. Maybe they could use that land for the building in front and still have open space behind it. Was that a possibility?

Tracy concluded by saying that at the next meeting they would talk about the salt shed area and Harrison Boulevard. She then scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday night, August 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.