

TOWN OF AVON
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE
JUNE 18, 2013

In Attendance:

Tracy Self, Chairman
Elaine Dombrosky
Marie Drottar
Tim Flanigan
Alex Sinclair
Carl Fischer
Glenn Fernald

Absent:

Jason Suzor
Kevin Foster

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TOWN OF AVON
TOWN CLERK

The first meeting of the new Public Safety Building Committee met at Town Hall on Tuesday evening, June 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Self commenced the meeting and said the first thing on the agenda was to decide when the Committee would meet. Everyone was in agreement that they would meet on the third Tuesday of each month. With that completed, Tracy went on to give a little background as to what was accomplished by the Avon Building Committee, which was formed back in 2006. She explained to the new members how they proceeded and what had transpired in the following years. The objective of their task was to decide which of the town's offices were in dire need of a new facility. After touring and doing their research on all of the town buildings, it was decided that the Fire and Police Station was in the worse shape and that was what they focused on.

Tracy then went on to explain how they proceeded; the research that was done; the people who were brought in and finally they had a space needs assessment done. She had brought with her the specs of the projected building and passed them out to everyone and gave them time to briefly look through them.

Elaine Dombrosky then talked about the available sites they looked into on which to build this new facility. She went through the sites and talked about each one.

Tracy continued and said the first building was designed for 50 years out, but today they are looking to build a new one which would last 25 years. They looked at all alternatives ... keeping both the Fire and Police where they are in the center of town; they talked about moving them to another location; they talked about keeping one of them in the existing location and moving the other. Everything had been looked into.

Elaine then passed around a book showing both the pros and cons of each of the sites and the Committee Members glanced at it. Throughout the months the first Committee had discussed, in depth, whether or not to split them up. After much discussion it was decided to keep them both together.

Tracy went on to say that the Town has put away \$603,770.50 for them to work with. Their job is to pick a site, go before the Town and then design the building. Tracy went on and discussed the cost of the first building, which was \$14,430,000. What had happened was that both the Police and Fire Chiefs had put a wish list together and the architect had put all of their “wishes” into his design. Today, they need someone to design a building for what the Town has.

At this time the Committee discussed the following:

- ✓ Adding on to the existing building
- ✓ A Sally Port
- ✓ Fire Vehicles
- ✓ Where would they put the Fire & Police if the building was enlarged?
- ✓ How many bays would the Fire Department need?
- ✓ Stacking the apparatus
- ✓ How many elevators would you need if you had a second floor?
- ✓ Moving the gazebo up to DeMarco Park in order to use that space

Tracy went on to talk about the Gale Study and explained a little about it to the Committee. She brought up the Crowley School and why it wasn't a good idea to use it. The road leading to it was windy and it was not as accessible to get to as being in the center of town.

The next item on the agenda was grants and Marie Drottar spoke a little about them as she had looked into grants the first time around. She said that grants are mostly for the equipment and not for the building.

In discussing whether or not to break up the Police and Fire Departments it was mentioned that they shared an administrative assistant. If you separated them you would have to hire another assistant. Also, if the building was 36,000 sq. ft., who would take care of it and maintain it? In designing the new building the Committee has to look at what they actually need as opposed to what they want. The building which was designed was going to have a rifle range ... is that something they need? Could they make money by hosting other towns? Is it necessary for the Fire and Police to have a workout area? What about the “call guys” that the town has today. It is hard because many of them have full-time jobs and aren't readily available. Do we need to hire more full-timers? These are all questions that need to be answered. Where do we go from here?

Listed below are the five possible locations:

- ✓ Crowley School

- ✓ Harrison Boulevard
- ✓ Salt Shed
- ✓ DeMarco Park
- ✓ Existing Location

The Committee talked about keeping the Fire and Police Station in the square as there are already vacant stores now and did they want another one? They discussed the 9-1-1 center and could it be moved temporarily. Could the Crowley location work if you bought additional space? In order to actually use the Crowley location you would have to tear it down. In that case you would lose the footprint. The Brooks Lumber location was brought up as there is stored fire apparatus there now. Relocating would be a huge cost and do you want to do that? Everyone agreed that the facility would have to be smaller – and 24,000 sq. ft. was something they could live with. They do know they have to downsize.

The Committee brought up using a 40' tractor trailer for practice shooting as they have seen it done before. It was an option as opposed to building a rifle range. Tracy told the Committee she would try and get everyone a copy of the Tecton book, which was what they used the first time around.

When there were no more items on the agenda, Tracy said the next meeting would be held on Tuesday evening, July 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.