

TOWN OF AVON
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

TOWN OF AVON

SEP 25 AM 7:37

TOWN CLERK

In Attendance:

Tracy Self, Chairman
Elaine Dombrosky
Tom Flanigan
Carl Fischer
Glenn Fernald
Jason Suzor
Alex Sinclair

Absent:

Kevin Foster
Marie Drottar

The Avon Public Safety Building Committee met at Town Hall on Tuesday evening, September 17, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Self commenced the meeting by saying she had spoken to Mike McCue to see whether or not they could still use Jeff McElravy. Seeing that he was the original architect it would only make sense to use him once again as he knew all about the town, the proposed locations, etc. She said he is now working on his pricing and his fee would have to be decided on.

Tracy then brought up the subject of a possible location and asked if everyone had an idea or a thought as to where they would like to put the new Public Safety Building. The "available" locations were:

- ✓ The Crowley School
- ✓ The Existing Location
- ✓ DeMarco Park
- ✓ Harrison Boulevard

A discussion ensued about the existing location and it was mentioned that you could possibly take the two sides off of that building and use the middle section where the bays are. Obviously they would have to have someone come in and look at the bay area to see if it was plausible to use the space as is. The Committee then talked about the pros and cons of using the existing site. Some members thought it only made sense to keep it where it was and others thought it would

cost a lot of money to renovate it. It might be better to just demolish it and start over or build it in another location.

The next location brought up was DeMarco Park. Many committee members thought it would be a great location for the new facility. They liked having it there as it was on the main drag and it was visible. There was a lot of land up there and you could do other things with that property as well, such as leaving the park. They thought that it was important to the Fire and Police and to the town people to be in the square.

Next, the Committee discussed the option of moving the Fire & Police station. If they did move them to another site, and when they were situated in this new location, they could then move Town Hall into their old site, leaving the “old” Town Hall vacant to be sold. With the money they made with selling it they could eventually / possibly renovate the “new” Town Hall.

At this time Tracy asked each Committee Member to say where they would like to have the Public Safety Building. The majority said they would like to see it in DeMarco Park. There was plenty of room, it was in the town, on the main drag, and visible to everyone.

Another thought was brought up ... maybe if the Fire & Police were to be moved to another location then the Public Works Department could possibly use their location as it would be perfect for them. It was another option – or that location could be used as an annex. The Committee members all agreed that they did not want to see another vacant building in the town.

Getting back to DeMarco Park, the Committee discussed the need for having 2 egresses and where they could possibly go. If you built it there you could leave the Park in front of the building – so that way you would still have DeMarco Park. They said it was something to think about.

Tim Flanigan brought up relocation and demolition. He said if you were to use the existing location then there would be two big costs. Brooks Lumber was brought up for relocation purposes, but there were two negative points to using that location. First, it is not heated and second, if it was sold then where would you move the Fire and Police to???? Where could they go?

Next on the agenda was the Industrial Park. There were new businesses going in there, but there were still many vacant properties. Maybe there was a place they could use up there while a new facility was being built. It was also mentioned that in order to go forth with this it was very important to get both Chiefs on board ... to get their support ... as well as both the firemen and the policemen.

Advertising was the next subject brought up. The Committee said they need to publicize what they are doing and to get as much info out to the public as possible. They need to get as much support behind this project as they can. Tracy said if Jeff could get them the figures for

relocation & demolition then they could get those numbers out to the taxpayers. The Committee members all agreed that they need to give the townspeople the pros and cons. They want to do renderings and let the Town see them beforehand ... keep them in the loop.

The monies for this project was brought up and Tracy said it was in a Stabilization Account and to use it, you had to go to the Town first. Speaking of monies, it was asked, "What number would the Town support?" It was decided \$7 to \$8 million dollars. Tracy said the towns around us built their facilities in that ballpark - between \$7-\$10 million.

The next item brought up and discussed by the Committee was a regional dispatch center. They said it looks like it may be the way of the world, but they said they need to plan for what they have now.

When there were no more items on the agenda, Tracy then scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday night, October 15th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.