

TOWN OF AVON
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20, 2013

TOWN OF AVON
2013 NOV 25 AM 7:37
TOWN CLERK

In Attendance:

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

The Avon Public Safety Building Committee met at Town Hall on Tuesday evening, August 20, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Self commenced the meeting by asking the Committee Members if they had any questions regarding the June 18th or the July 16th Meeting Notes. No one had any so she asked for someone to make a motion to accept them as read. Jason Suzor made the motion to accept them as read. They were unanimously approved.

At this time Tracy introduced Jeff McElravy from Tecton Architects, Inc. Jeff was the Architect who did the design for the Public Safety Building several years ago. He began by passing around a picture of the Wilbraham, MA Fire Station, which he did at a cost of \$2.5 million. He explained to the Committee that this Fire Station had been built around the original building.

Jeff then asked the Committee if they were still looking at the same sites, which they were, and if they still had the same Chiefs, which they do. Tracy brought up the three sites (West Main & Harrison Boulevard; the existing site and DeMarco Park) and a discussion ensued about each location.

Kevin Foster mentioned he had heard a rumor that there might be an Electrical Transfer Station built along Harrison Boulevard, and if so, it would be built right in front of the new Public Safety Building, if it were to be built on Harrison Boulevard. The Committee discussed the traffic situation on Harrison; the light situation, and how maintaining them would be on the town.

Tim Flanigan had a question about the existing site. He asked if you could add on to that site and a discussion followed. A question was brought up about the fire needs. Could they get along with three fire trucks and two ambulances?

The Committee then talked about shared services between the Fire Department and the Police Department. It was agreed there were a lot of things that could be shared by both departments and that way many things could be eliminated in the design of the new facility. They discussed the septic system – and it was fine. They talked about the cost of relocating everyone during the renovation of the existing location. Would it be costly to build on top of the existing building?

Kevin then mentioned the land up in the Industrial Park where the Highway Department is located. They might be able to temporarily use this building for relocation purposes and he said the 9-1-1 trailer could also go up there as well. Now that they've relocated the Fire and Police they could bulldoze the existing two sides of the building and build from there. It's an ideal location; the lights are already there and it's on the main drag. He said you could also create garages out back.

Jeff told the Committee that they should first look for things that could be shared by both departments and eliminate anything that they can, and in this way they could use the existing site. A long discussion ensued on the design that had already been done.

Jeff then asked what a supportable number would be for this facility. He told the Committee that they have to define their needs. Importantly, they have to make compromises to get the support they need and he asked if they were ready to make these decisions.

The Bodwell Street Extension was brought up and how it was going to become the permanent home of the Public Works Department.

Jeff then passed around a picture of the North Brookfield, MA Police Station to show the Committee another facility that he had designed.

Tracy then asked Jeff what was the average amount that people in our area were paying and Jeff responded by saying \$300 a square foot. Jeff said that by combining, sharing and reducing they could bring that number down. They have to make smart choices, it won't be easy, but it can be done.

The next item on the agenda was DeMarco Park, which is town-owned. If they did use DeMarco Park for the Public Safety Building then they could put Town Hall in their location and sell the Town Hall location.

Kevin then asked about Fagan Drive. You might be able to use the land going down the road, but not near the ball field.

Jeff asked the Committee why they wanted to combine both the Fire and Police. He was told that they share a dispatcher, a secretary and more importantly, they prefer to stay together as they back each other up.

Jeff brought up Westford, MA and how they were able to rebuild in the existing location. He said they took everyone and put them up in 4 trailers for a year, which cost them approximately \$6,000/month. The only thing was Chelmsford had to take their prisoners for a year. Jeff talked about another facility they did in Connecticut. He said they lived in it during the renovation, but it was very difficult.

Jeff told the Committee he would have books made so that everyone could have their own. He also asked the Committee to check with the Town to see if they could still use him. He already had the contact to do this, but they might need to send it out again. He did mention that he would get someone out to check the existing bays to see if they could still be used.

When there no more items on the agenda, Tracy scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday evening, September 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.