

OPM Steering Committee

with

Select Board, Fire and Police Departments

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom

OPM Steering Committee Present: Jim Ayres, Jason Connell, Brenda Lessard, Jean O'Neil, Paul Wetzal, Denise Wickland

Absent: Don Bonham, W. Kim Boas

Fire and Police: Sabrina and Cory McGill (FD), Dan Banister (FD), Shane Pinkham (PD), Peter Fisher (PD), Ken Taylor (FD), Michael LeMoine (PD), Jim Ferron (FD), Paul Sanderson (FD), Bart Casey (FD) Greg Dibrindisi (FD), Jason Soukup (PD) Shawna Rogers (FD), Daryl Springman (FD), Robert Reinke (PD), Bob Labrie:

Other: Kevin Chrobak (architect – Juster Pope Frazier), William Sayre (Select Board), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator)

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

There were 25 participants on the Zoom meeting. Jim Ayres gave an overview of the work of the Committee and the purpose of the meeting.

Kevin Chrobak, gave an overview of the three options including the costs and outlining the pros and cons of each. He then went through the design of the building to support the program. Outlined the recommended option which is to take down the James building and build a new public safety complex on that area of the site.

Questions: Good discussion. Many of the things brought up need to be more fully explored, discussed and adjusted in design development (next phase).

- Where are hoses to be kept?
- Use of the middle space – reasoning?
- Location of bathrooms for returning FFs - noted there is a bathroom down by wash room
- Additional parking needed for fire department to aid in quick access to equipment increasing response times - priority
- Comments that based on information shown, agree with recommendation
- Where are the police lockers?
- Discussed size of the booking room
- Reuse of brick in James building – cost of pulling to use for building would be high, but to pull as pavers for park or small tribute could be done.
- Geological Survey Data Marker on the stairs of the James building – does that affect the taking of the James down? Needs to be researched.
- Suggested that we show impact on taxes including the curve of the overall tax items.

Jim Ayres offered to have Committee members go to a Fire or Police Department meeting if it was felt that would be useful. He noted that it is going to be important for the department members to take a lead in advocating for the project. Asked for department members to be willing to record testimonials

Discussed bringing it to the town in the middle of the pandemic and whether that is a good plan. There is strong support for the complex and going out sooner than later will bring back more favorable bids, but there is concern if it makes sense to move forward during a time when there are more positive cases than last spring. One FD member stated that he has gotten positive feedback and questions about when the town is going to move forward with the project. Overall it was felt that the town should move forward quicker because the cost will be less and the impact on residents will not be for a year or two from the vote. The longer we wait the cost will increase.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.