Why do we need a Safety Complex?

This is why: We have two old buildings, on the wrong side of the river, that cannot be updated, in bad locations and that don't meet our needs. They are inefficient in energy costs, for operational needs, and are not safe for the personnel that use them. If you have not seen them for yourself, please make an appointment to have a tour.

What is the recent History of this Project?

The Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen in October of 2013 to determine what was needed, practical, affordable and necessary for the future emergency service needs of the town. The final report was delivered to the Board of Selectmen in June of 2016. That report and further work completed has resulted in the WPSCC recommending that a safety complex be constructed on the James School lot as soon as is practical.

How much will it Cost?

The latest estimate for the project is $3,500,000, which includes all costs through completion. It is anticipated that $350,000, for design and construction documents, can be used from Free Cash, and $900,000 from the Stabilization Fund, which would leave $2,250,000 remaining to be borrowed. That amount of borrowing would increase the tax rate by $.64 for every $1000 of valuation in 2021 and decrease to approximately $.38 by the end of the borrowing term in 2040. A house valued at $250,000 would have a tax increase in 2021 of $161 reducing to $96 in 2040.

How Big will it be?

The current design sketches show a building of 10,600 sf. Our two current stations have 5,862 sf. The proposed layout provides adequate space for fire apparatus, trailers (including the Emergency Management Trailer) and additional equipment. The Police section has space for a sallyport, booking, evidence storage, private interview area and related office space. There is a shared conference room.

When will it be Completed?

Our current timeline shows that a designer could be hired in mid-summer of 2018 and approval for construction funds brought before the Annual Town Meeting in 2019. Construction could start in spring of 2020.
Where will it be Located?
This has been one of the most vexing questions to answer and the WPSCC has worked very hard on this issue during the last 2 years. The main limiting factor has been the topography of the river valley that Rte. 9 traverses. On either side of the river there are flood zones that shouldn’t be built in, and for those areas that are not subject to flooding, there is substantial infrastructure already in place. That leaves precious little remaining. The few lots that were suitable for a safety complex are not affordable. Response time and availability of water and sewer are also important considerations.

- 29 Main St (Rte. 9, Lashway Firewood lot) Not affordable
- 45 Main St (Rte. 9, new stove shop) Not affordable
- Highway Dept. Buildable area not large enough
- National Grid Lot (Rte. 9, next to Kellogg Rd.) Flood Zone
- Town Office, Haydenville Not large enough
- Haydenville Police/Fire Bldg. Wrong side of river, not large enough
- Williamsburg Fire Bldg. Wrong side of river, not large enough
- James School lot Suitable

What are the next Steps?
To better inform the public, the WPSCC is hosting a Public Information Forum on Tuesday, October 10 at the Town Offices Auditorium at 7:00 pm. Then a Special Town Meeting will be conducted on Monday, October 16, 7:00 pm at the Anne T. Dunphy School Gymnasium at 7:00 pm. That vote, Article 1, will ask for $30,000 for pre-design services by hiring an Owner’s Project Manager to assist in the next steps. The OPM will conduct the following steps:

- Program Confirmation
- Budget Analysis / Development
- Programming adjusted to meet budget
- Analysis of existing reports
- 3-5 Options (which includes a program study of the James for Town Offices)
- Facilitation of Town Process
- Anticipated project schedule
- Public Presentation
- Architectural selection (RFQ and Selection)

“This (referring to the hiring of an OPM) will allow for a more independent analysis of the project goals and scope with the aim of more clearly indicating options and costs that will be helpful in developing a preferred course of action that reflects a number of interests within the community and the long range interests of the Town.” Nick Dines, 9/19/17

Where can I get more Information?
There is a wealth of information, past studies, minutes of the WPSCC meetings and a video on the Town website under the Public Safety Complex page. www.burgy.org/public-safety-complex-committee

If you want to contact an individual on the WPSCC, here are some ways to do that:
- Fire Department Chief
  Jason Connell
  Williamsburgfire@burgy.org
- Police Department Chief
  Denise Wickland
  wicklandd@williamsburgpd.org
- Chair of Safety Complex Committee
  William Sayre
  sayre@crocker.com
- Town Administrator
  Charlene Nardi
  TownAdmin@burgy.org 268-8418

Other members:
- Denise Banister, Selectman
- Dan Banister, Firefighter
- Louis Hasbrouck
  Town Building Inspector
- Dick Kisloski, Chair
  Capital Planning Committee
- Don Lawton
  Chief, retired, Fire Dept.
- Daryl Springer
  Deputy Chief, Fire Dept.
- Michael Wayne, Corporal
  Police Dept.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of those who have contributed their thoughts and ideas on this project and who have recognized the need that Williamsburg must address.