

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 10, 2015

June 9, 2016 - Addendum

Board of Selectmen,

On October 17, 2013 the Board of Selectmen created this committee with the following charges:

1. Identify what is needed in the building by the Police and Fire Depts. (i.e. secured area details, # and dimensions of bays...)
 - a. What is ideal
 - b. What is practical and affordable and necessary for Williamsburg
2. Determine preliminary design and size of a building – conceptually what is in the building – how many bays, bathrooms, holding area etc.
3. Identify possible locations for the building
4. Determine/Identify available funding options/sources
5. Report to the Board of Selectmen by April, 2014 (*interim report delivered 4/3/14*)

We are pleased to present to the Board our final report that accomplishes these goals and wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to have brought this important project forward to this point. We also wish to thank and acknowledge the help of Anwar Hossain of DRA Architects who has compiled this report with our input and guidance. He has done an excellent job of distilling the needs of our town into a concise and targeted report while taking into account the geographic and economic constraints that our location imposes.

This report consists of three studies that represent three different scenarios that the town may wish to consider and use in its process for providing a new safety complex for the Fire, Police and Emergency Management Services departments. The first represents an answer to the question posed in charge 1a, what is ideal. The second study answers the charge posed by 1b, what is practical and affordable. The third study addresses the possible incorporation of the James School for a portion of the facilities, with its projected costs to answer charge 3, possible locations. As outlined in the report, we were unable to identify any other locations in town that met the criteria as set out by this committee. However, if another site should come up for

consideration, the parameters and costs developed in Study #2, would be applicable to other sites with considerations for site constraints.

Charge 4 asks that we identify funding sources for this project. While we did not institute an in-depth survey of grant possibilities, we did ask several sources for recommendations. While we were unable to find any grant opportunities at this time we do feel that having a grants coordinator for this project might prove productive and is worth pursuing. In addition, the town has significant reserves that would be available in some portion to offset borrowing costs.

One final note that our committee would like to emphasize is the need to move on to the next phase of this project without undue delay. The conditions of the present facilities and the constraints that they impose on the operations of the town's emergency response departments represent a continuing liability that will only get worse with time. We are offering with this report a short video that clearly demonstrates the need for new facilities.

Sincerely,

William Sayre, Chair
Denise Banister
Dan Banister
Jason Connell
Louis Hasbrouck

Dick Kisloski
Don Lawton
Daryl Springman
Mike Wayne
Denise Wickland

Addendum

June 9, 2016

Since the previous date of this report, the committee has undertaken further work to establish the suitability of alternate sites to the James School lot. This research has located FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security) guidelines that recommend not locating a critical structure, such as Police or Fire Departments, in the 500 year flood plain, and precludes federal funding if a structure is so located. MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) is expected to adopt the same regulations within this calendar year.

“For some activities and facilities, even a slight chance of flooding is too great a threat. Typical critical facilities include hospitals, fire stations, police stations, storage of critical records, and similar facilities. These facilities should be given special consideration when formulating regulatory alternatives and floodplain management plans. A critical facility should not be located in a floodplain if at all possible. If a critical facility must be located in a floodplain it should be provided a higher level of protection so that it can continue to function and provide services after the flood. Communities should develop emergency plans to continue to provide these services during the flood.

Under Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, Federal agencies funding and/or permitting critical facilities are required to avoid the 0.2% (500-year) floodplain or protect the facilities to the 0.2% chance flood level.”

“Critical Facility.” FEMA, accessed 15 May 2016. Web. <https://www.fema.gov/critical-facility>.

In addition, we submit the following items showing 500 and 100 year flood zones for two areas of the Town of Williamsburg:

James School site – Flood Map.png

National Grid – Flood Map.png

Photo – Rte 9, Lashway Firewood Lot, August 2011, Hurricane Irene

“OLIVER: MassGIS's Online Mapping Tool.” MassGIS, accessed 15 May 2016. Web. <http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map>

James School Lot Flood Map
Showing 500 and 100 year flood zones



National Grid Lot Flood Map
Showing 500 and 100 year flood zones



