

**Police-Fire Facility Committee
Thursday, April 10, 2014, 4:00pm
Selectboard Meeting Room
Minutes**

In attendance: Philip Chapman, Kathy Dowd, Dave Emery, Sr, Steve Phillips, Prudence MacKinney, Tony Farnum, Eli Gould, John Allen and Robin Sweetapple.

Absent: Tony Farnum

Staff Present: Patrick Moreland, Mike Bucossi, Peter Lynch, Gene Wrinn, Michael Fitzgerald.

Others Present: Steve Horton, Ray Giolitto, Tad Montgomery, Jeff Davis (DEW), Paul Cameron, Lester Humphreys, David Schoales.

- A. Sweetapple called the meeting to order at 4:02pm and confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.
- B. Public Participation – None
- C. Approve Minutes - Dowd moved to approve the minutes of 3-27-14. The date of the meeting where Gartenstein and Allen were noted to have attended was 2-27-14 and not 3-27-14. Phillips noted that the meeting concluded at 5:30pm and not at 7:30pm. The spelling of Mark Vincello's name was corrected. Lester Humphreys corrected costs associated with energy use, noting that \$23.03 per million BTU is in FY 13 dollars and \$33.77 per million BTU is propane at today's prices. Dowd moved to approve the minutes of 3-27-14 as amended. Emery second, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. Project Update – Horton informs the committee that the project design work continues move forward. Central Station and Station 2 are at roughly 75% design completion and blue prints should be developed within 3 or 4 weeks. The Municipal Center is only at roughly 50% - 60% of design completion.

Moreland described a walkthrough with Bruce Martin, Regional Manager for the Vermont Division of Fire Safety. Martin will develop a list of safety improvements that must be remedied in order for a construction permit to be issued. Improvements include, completion of the existing fire sprinkler system, and improvements to egress corridors that may involve additional automated fire doors. These changes need to be remedied whether or not the project moves ahead. Phillips comments that they are not project related costs. Giolitto notes that a construction permit is contingent on these issues being remedied. Gould inquires if there may be similar code issues at Central Station. Giolitto does not expect them to be significant, and will review the Central Design when he meets with the Vermont Division of Fire Safety.

Horton walks the committee through a list of potential construction cuts developed by staff with the support of design staff. Horton explains that DEW will be presenting him with an updated set of construction estimates soon, perhaps by tomorrow.

Phillips confirms that he shares the same understanding of the Selectboard request. Following a discussion with David Gartenstein, Phillips states the request to be 1) ways to save substantial amounts of money 2) describe the cuts, and 3) and confirm to the board that the cuts are either a good thing or a bad thing. The committee confirms that they share this understanding. Phillips follows by indicating that he favors the project as it is currently designed.

Dowd sees the request from the Selectboard to be interesting. Dowd believes that the committee has been careful in their oversight and knows that the project is absolutely necessary. Dowd also insists that a project of this scope should address the needs of the departments for 50 years. Emery wants to make certain that the project is not derailed. Trimming the project is not the answer to the larger budget problem. Emery believes that the committee can already project a savings of between \$400,000 and \$600,000, and that is good. Allen indicates that the Selectboard request is a knee jerk response to Town Meeting. Not in agreement that the budget should be cut, but agrees with Emery that the work of the committee thus far has been productive. Gould reminds the committee that we are working within a divided town; so let's get to it.

Chapman inquires if the committee is able to address the request, without knowing the final cost estimates. Phillips suggested that the committee could potentially reduce the project cost without accepting the cuts and could report such a position to the Selectboard. David Schoales states that the cuts to the project will depend on who turns out to vote. He indicates that the request to examine cuts should not be taken personally; it's a reaction to town meeting.

Horton hands out a reduction schedule. One option is to downgrade the quality of materials, which could potentially save \$350,000. Choosing for example, a lesser quality window and different finish materials or siding, will save on construction costs. Phillips contends that this is a serious mistake and that we should be planning for the next 50 years. Horton describes how new furniture does not necessarily need to be purchased in coordination with the project, which could result in a savings of \$186,500. Phillips suggests that such a decision only serves to defer costs to the future. Horton goes on to describe that the cupola could be removed from the design of Station 2, at a potential savings of \$20,000. The total savings in the first group of savings is \$556,500.

The second group of items totals \$400,000 and would include a reduction in the quality of materials in the MC parking lot, a reduction in the scope of the planning department renovations, the elimination of the police conference room, and a downsizing of Station 2, that involves the EOC in the existing Station 2.

The plan is to move the 600 sq' EOC to Central Station, floor 2 from its current position in the Municipal Center. Maintaining staffed working space in the basement of the Municipal Center is a serious code issue. The proposal discussed by the committee included moving the EOC to the existing Station 2, not demolishing that building, and then removing one bay from the proposed new Station 2. The obvious downside is that an additional building will need to be maintained. However the cost savings to the project would be 1) one less bay on Station 2 would save \$180,000, 2) remove EOC from Central would save \$120,000 for a total savings of \$300,000. However, certain up fit costs at the existing Station 2 may cost as much as \$100,000. As a result the whole package of movements with the EOC may save \$200,000. Emery reminds the committee that the existing Station 2, is in very poor condition. Emery is concerned that a reduced project will mean that we will be back at this work in another 15 years. Phillips indicated that some of the individual savings will not dramatically impact next year's budget.

The police department conference room is very important to the Chief. The conference room would allow a training to occur without the interruption that presently occurs in the roll call room. The conference room is important, but without it the project is still worth the investment.

The committee agreed that they should wait to see the outcome of the vote before responding to the Selectboard. Additionally Emery noted that without the benefit of the final cost estimates, choosing cost cuts now seems premature. The committee tabled the discussion until its next meeting. The committee chose to meet next on May 1, 2014 at 4pm. Gould asks that the revised estimates be emailed out in advance of the next meeting. The consensus message that the committee had for the board is the following, "We have found no significant items with potential cost savings that we would recommend to the board at this time. We will meet again on May 1". Dave Schoales will follow up with the board during committee reports at the Selectboard meeting on 4-15-14.

- E. Energy Efficiency Subcommittee – The subcommittee returned with a unanimous recommendation. Due to the need for redundancy with critical public safety facilities, there is an option to mix types of heating systems. The air ducting and water piping would connect to whatever heating or cooling system that was chosen. As a result the subcommittee recommended a hybrid system that included both an electric heat pump and a gas boiler. A memo from WV Engineering was distributed. The subcommittee was thanked for its additional effort.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.