

Police-Fire Facility Committee
Thursday, October 24, 2013, 2:00pm
Selectboard Meeting Room
Minutes

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

Absent: Prudence MacKinney

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

Others Present: Steve Horton, Ray Giolitto, Michael Bosworth, Nancy Miller

- A. Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.
- B. Report on the Phase 2 – While several staff personnel were running late, Phillips asked Sue Fillion to describe the status of the Phase 2 Environmental at the Church Street property. Fillion reported that the project had been delayed due to the impact on the Environmental Protection Agency from the recent federal government shutdown.
- C. Phillips confirmed the warning. Phillips transfers chair to Sweetapple.
- D. Public Participation – Michael Bosworth and Nancy Miller were recognized.
- E. Dowd moved to approve the minutes of 9/26/13, with 2 corrections. Mr. Phillips name is spelled with two “L”s, and Eli Gould’s name need appear only once. Second by Emery. Motion carried.
- F. Project Update by Project Manager – Horton began with reiterating how DEW estimates a savings of roughly \$200,000 if Station 2 was demolished and built new instead of being added onto and renovated. Horton explains that the recent survey work has revealed that some use of Town of Brattleboro School District (TOBSD) land would have been necessary either way, as even the addition would have had to have extended beyond the town owned property. Phillips directs the attention of the room to the Black River Design’s Feasibility Study, Page 19, which clearly indicates that either a lot line adjustment or easements were contemplated for the use of the TOBSD land. If this concept does not meet with approval of the TOBSD board, then Station 2 must be significantly reworked to fit onto the town owned land.

Mr. Bosworth of the West Brattleboro Association is recognized and speaks to other potential uses of the existing Station 2, instead of demolition. Moreland suggests that the Selectboard could decide to repurpose, sell, or demolish the existing Station 2, and that the committee is focused on the successful completion of the Police Fire Facility project. Mr. Bosworth introduces the idea of a narrower Western Avenue. There is some discussion of a Western Avenue Safety engineering study just getting underway. Moreland confirms that the engineering effort and the Police Fire Facility project must each be kept informed of the others progress.

Horton explains that Black River missed some key opportunities at Station 2, and that similar opportunities for savings might not exist in the same obvious manner at the Municipal Center or Central Station.

Nancy Miller is recognized and asks what company did the preliminary work. Horton describes the scope of the feasibility project performed by Black River Designs. Moreland will get Miller a copy of the report at the conclusion of the meeting.

Sweetapple asks of a floor plan for Station 2. Horton plans to deliver a potential plan at a next meeting, and recommends one be scheduled 2 weeks out on November 7.

Horton & Giolitto have begun to meet with Fire staff and will meet with Police staff in the near future. Horton explains that the proposed basement at the Municipal Center will require several hundred thousand dollars worth of work to support the existing foundation from collapse, costs that do not have a lasting benefit to the taxpayers. For this reason Horton is exploring a reduction in the size of the basement of the new addition. If too much of the existing Municipal Center is renovated, a requirement for additional bracing against seismic activity will be required. Seismically bracing the Municipal Center is not within our budget. Phillips suggests a waiver, and makes clear that we must always be exploring alternatives.

Moreland confirms that he will be meeting with the TOBSD board to discuss the property for Station 2. Moreland will ask Attorney Fisher to outline the process for exchanging property between the Town of Brattleboro and the Town of Brattleboro School District.

G. Adjourned at 5:30 by a motion from Dowd. Motion carried.