

**Police-Fire Facility Committee**  
**Thursday, December 5, 2014, 4:00pm**  
**Hanna Cosman and Selectboard Meeting Rooms**  
**Minutes**

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

Absent: Eli Gould

Staff Present: Patrick Moreland, Mike Bucossi, Pete Lynch, Mark Carignan

Others Present: Steve Horton, Russell Rice, Tad Montgomery, and Howard Weiss-Tisman.

- A. Sweetapple called the meeting to order at 4:08pm and confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.
- B. Public Participation – Tad Montgomery informed the committee that the Sustainable Energy Funding Program is a potential source for project funding. Moreland indicates that he will direct Finance Director John O'Connor to contact the program.
- C. Approve Minutes (November 6, 2014) – Emery moves to approve the minutes as submitted. Philips corrects the minutes. MacKinney seconds. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Project Update by Project Manager – Horton began by explaining the need for the Town of Brattleboro to adhere to the 2012 International building Code, which the Vermont has adopted. According to the code, a building which serves as a police station qualifies for a category 4 risk assessment as an essential facility and thus must adhere to a certain set of building standards. The Category 4 risk category states that, among other standards, the building must be braced against damage from seismic events. There are no exemptions from this code, and need to comply with the standards for an essential facility has been confirmed in writing with the Vermont Division of Fire Safety.
- E. Police Department Site Subcommittee - Horton passes out a sheet which identifies a total of three potential sites for potential redevelopment. Horton walked through the list and identified pros and cons of each site as a potential new facility for a police department. Moreland inquired about how the existing building materials and method of construction will impact renovation costs. Horton can develop a preliminary estimate on renovation cost, but did not have that information at the time of the meeting. Moreland explains that the Selectboard has requested a meeting with the committee and asks if the analysis could be performed by the time the committee meets with the board. Horton agrees that this is possible. The subcommittee asserts that the three sites on the list are worthy of discussing with the Selectboard.

Chief Bucossi was asked about the recent discussion of Station Two with the Selectboard. All agreed that the discussion was positive, but questions persist about whether or not the Selectboard will allow the voters to cast their votes on each project independently. Chief Bucossi expresses concern that if the projects are broken apart, that a component project, quite possible Station Two, might not be approved. With serious needs at all three locations, Chief Bucossi explains that it would be wrong to break the project into pieces.

Philips explained that the Selectboard needs to decide how the project will move ahead and support it. A discussion about lessons from the FY15 budget process occurred. The committee will discuss making a recommendation to the board about how the project is warranted. A possible Police 'sub station' will also be discussed at the next meeting and Horton will discuss the idea during his update. Also, while Emery would like to see vacant land and new construction maintained as a possible option, after walking through the committee through the consequences of new construction, it is clear that this choice would add cost to the project. Option F, as described in previous memos, is based around the savings that arises from renovation over new construction.

F. Adjourn.

Next meeting, December 11 at 4pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.