

**Police-Fire Facilities Building Committee
Joint Meeting with Selectboard
Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 6:15pm
Selectboard Meeting Room
Minutes**

Committee members present: Robin Sweetapple, Kathy Dowd, Steve Phillips, Philip Chapman, and Prudence MacKinney.

Selectboard members present: David Gartenstein, Kate O'Connor, David Schoales, Donna Macomber, and John Allen.

Staff present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Finance Director John O'Connor, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell, Recreation & Parks Director Carol Lolatte, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Assistant Fire Chief Peter Lynch, Police Captain Mark Carignan, Library Director Jerry Carbone, Executive Secretary Jan Anderson, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Others present: Steve Horton, Cheryl Franklin, Tim Franklin, Melanie Boese, Jack Judge, Chelsea Nunez, Jane Southworth, Lester Humphreys, Louis Brusco (WSWMD), Joe Pieciak, Judy Davidson, Orly Munzing, Moss Kahler, Norman Mallory, Peter Gaskill, Art Greenbaum, Bob Spencer, ASL Interpreters Janet Dickinson and Janice Wightman, James Banslaben and other BCTV staff and volunteers, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Sweetapple called the meeting to order at 6:15pm and confirmed that the meeting was properly warned. The Selectboard asked members of the Committee to provide the Board with an update on the project.

Excerpt from December 16, 2014 Selectboard Minutes:

Police-Fire Facilities Project - *Town Manager's Office, Brattleboro Fire Department, Brattleboro Police Department.* Gartenstein said that the Board met with the Police-Fire Facilities Building Committee approximately six weeks ago and discussed a range of alternatives on how to proceed with the project. At that time, he said that the committee was asked to pursue alternatives and report back to the Board, particularly to the matter of relocating the Police station to a different location. Members from the Committee, Kathy Dowd and Robin Sweetapple, and Project Manager Steve Horton were present. Other Committee members, Steve Phillips, Philip Chapman and Prudence MacKinney, were also in attendance in the audience. Dowd provided a short overview of the project and discussed pros and cons of some possible sites for a new Police station most of which were located on Putney Road, as well as suggestions and concerns voiced by Committee members. She said there were public concerns about moving the Police station away from downtown and, in response, Chief Fitzgerald suggested the possibility of adding a 2-person police substation at the Transportation Center to enhance police presence near downtown. Horton reviewed information provided about 3 possible sites for a new police station, along with budget scenarios and pros and cons of the 3 sites identified. He said that the Committee's focus was on "Plan F," which included additions to Central Fire and West Brattleboro Fire Station as previously proposed, and to pursue an alternate site for the Police station in lieu of adding onto the Municipal Center. He said that Plan F would cost approximately \$12.9 million but cautioned that an unknown factor in that plan was the cost of a new site. Steve Phillips, member of the Police-Fire Committee, spoke in support of Plan F, and suggested negotiating options on prospective properties. He said that the Police and Fire personnel need better facilities and that the voters should have an opportunity to vote on the project. He suggested creating a warning to give to the Town Representatives with 1, 2 or 3 options. He also reminded the Board that the Representatives suggested that the Board find ways to increase the revenue and to decrease expenses. Robin Sweetapple spoke in support of a Putney Road location for the new Police Department. Lester Humphreys cautioned against moving forward without knowing the cost of a potential site for the Police Department. Moreland suggested authorizing Town Attorney Fisher or a staff member, in consultation with Town Assessor Russell Rice, to negotiate the purchase of a new site for the Police Department and to structure a purchase and sale

agreement with contingencies including approval by the voters. There was substantial discussion by the Board. Allen, Schoales, and Macomber discussed their support in proceeding with the project and improving the health and safety issues for the Police and Fire personnel. Gartenstein and O'Connor spoke about budget concerns, looming large capital projects, and the need for a long-term, broader analysis of operating and capital budgets. All Board members thanked the Committee members for their diligence and substantial work and their dedication to the project.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN THAT THE SELECTBOARD ENDORSES THE POLICE-FIRE FACILITIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO PROCEED WITH THE POLICE-FIRE PROJECT "PLAN F," TO REVISE THE FY16 BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE BORROWING NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION, AND TO NEGOTIATE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS OF THE PROPOSED POLICE DEPARTMENT PROPERTIES. MOTION CARRIED 3-2 (GARTENSTEIN AND O'CONNOR OPPOSED).

There was no further business conducted by the Police-Fire Facilities Building Committee. Sweetapple adjourned the meeting.