

Town of Scarborough

Public Safety Building Committee

August 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Chief Thurlow
Judy Roy
David Libby

Chief Moulton
Roger Chabot
Rick Meinking

Kevin Freeman
Peter Hayes
Rocco Risbara

Guests:

Michael Stephenson
Deputy Chief Deering
Deputy Chief Attardo

Steve Thibodeau
Deputy Chief St. Pierre

Angela Blanchette
Larissa Crockett

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Freeman at 8:00 AM.

The minutes of the 7/12/17 meeting were approved as submitted via e-mail previously since the committee wasn't scheduled to meet again at that time.

New Business:

Chairman Freeman acknowledged the resignation of Sue Hamill from the committee. He thanked her for her input to the committee stating she asked some of the controversial questions regarding the project. Most importantly the question of the amount of Town debt and the affect this might have on the individual taxes in the following years.

There was an extended discussion about town debt and how this project will impact it. It was noted that the Town Manager will be forwarding detailed debt information to the Finance Committee which will be meeting on the 31st of August to discuss this and the larger debt management plan.

Judy pointed out that the amount of Town debt at this point is 84M and we must determine how that will affect budgets beyond 2017. Larissa agreed that bonding was a major issue and stated that we need to present this data in terms the residents of the Town clearly understand. Robbie noted that he met with the Superintendent who will speak to the school department needs in the future. We are scheduled to make a presentation on the public safety building on 10/5/17 at the School Board meeting seeking both support of this project and an assurance the school's aren't planning any capital construction projects within at least five years.

Larissa pointed out that Scarborough's debt per homeowner is \$5,000 vs \$2,000 in some other communities, but explained you also have to look at the tax rate to get the whole picture. Many of those other communities do not bond as much for improving infrastructure and maintaining facilities, thus they have higher tax rates. Kevin stated that the 2 major issues we need to be prepared to speak to are the debt and the reuse of the current building.

Kevin then introduced Mike Stephenson from The Friends of Scarborough Public Safety, a group of private citizens who would like to assist with the public outreach process by raising funds to support both that effort, and the construction of a public safety memorial at the new facility funded totally

through donations (see attached letter). This group was formed to make a clear delineation between municipal and private funding for advocacy efforts.

There was a discussion about various groups to target with our outreach efforts including the neighborhood meetings at the fire stations and civic groups. We discussed the council's vote to table the decision to put this question on the ballot after the senior group spoke during public comments at the last council meeting about their preference that the town not consider selling the current facility so they could use it as they are running out of space at Martin's Point. Kevin noted that the reuse of the current PSB does not meet basic needs without \$500,000 – 1M in renovation and parking is limited and access and egress is dangerous. We also need to make the senior group aware that we have included public meeting space for their and other groups to use when not being used by public safety needs.

It was noted the municipal facilities plan has not been widely shared with general public yet as they are waiting for the School Department to provide the details of their needs so it includes all future town needs in one document. Dave suggested that the facility plan be integrated within the next revision of the new Comprehensive Plan.

Chief Thurlow provided a draft time table over the next two months for public outreach to the various civic groups including Rotary, Kiwanis, Lion's, Buy Local, and others. Rick Meinking suggested reaching out to our legislative delegation to leverage their social media contacts to help promote the neighborhood meetings where we hope to get various neighborhood groups to attend. Chief Thurlow will begin scheduling meetings with these groups as soon as possible (see attached). Chief Moulton stated we could use the "Code Red" call system to target various sections of town. He also said the video tour being developed by Jill Deering should be ready to post next week.

Kevin Freeman summarized the outreach strategies we agreed to:

1. Establish a public outreach plan
2. Be prepared to explain that the PSB is the highest priority in the Municipal Facility Plan
3. Continue to explain the need and space constraints in the current PSB
4. Explain the effect of the cost of waiting including the increased cost of construction and borrowing due to increasing interest rates.
5. Speak with our legislative delegation in hopes of having them help spread the word on outreach efforts.
6. Send a message to the Town Manager and/or Council that this committee feels it is critical that we answer the concerns voiced about debt and the town's ability to pay.

Committee members are encouraged to help spread the word within their circle of influence and to attend any of the outreach sessions they are able to, in order to help answer questions and educate the public.

The next committee meeting will be held on September 13, 2017 @ 8:00 AM in the public safety classroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Roy, recording secretary



Friends of Scarborough Public Safety

Dear ,

As you may or may not be aware, the Town of Scarborough is in the process of seeking approval for a new Public Safety Building. The 13-member Building Committee has been diligently working on this project since November 2016 and in July their final design and cost estimates were submitted to the Scarborough Town Council. It is hoped that their seal of approval will be given and the project can then be put before the Town voters on the November ballot.

Given the fact that the current Public Safety Building is in dire need of repair and is very overcrowded there is a real need for a new building. The proposed new facility is planned to be built on the town owned property adjacent to the Town Hall.

The current building was occupied initially by the Fire Department. In 1968 the Police Department moved in from town hall. In 1989 an addition was built at the rear to accommodate a growing Police Department. Since then programs and staffing has increased dramatically with the increase in the population of the Town coupled with new programs and activities such as the live-in student program, Operation HOPE, cybercrime and video forensics, none of which existed back in 1989. The department did not have a safety and compliance officer, a school resource officer, community resource officer or records clerk.

This organization, Friends of Scarborough Public Safety, a non-profit group of individuals established to support and advocate for the new Public Safety Building, is embarking on a program of education ahead of the vote in November to ensure the voters have all the facts to make an informed decision. The plan is to use a combination of social media, email, news print and regular mail to achieve this. We have already started the process and have an active Facebook page with over 70 followers after a few weeks of existence.

We now need to ramp up our outreach efforts and in order to do so we are seeking donations and support for this project. It is important to keep a clear distinction between the town's staff work on planning and design and advocacy for the project. That is why this group was formed to assure all advocacy costs for printings and public outreach efforts were funded completely separate from municipal government.

If you or your organization is willing to support this effort we would appreciate a donation. Funds not used in direct support of the advocacy efforts will be saved in a reserve account to fund a Public Safety Memorial at the new building funded by private donations.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at mstephenson@callntt.com or 207-899-9007 or @ScarboroughE5

Donations can be made on our Go Fund Me page gofundme.com/new-public-safety-building-campaign

or mailed to: Friends of Scarborough Public Safety

Attn: Mike Stephenson

25 Plaza Dr. Suite 1

Scarborough, Me 04074

(Make checks payable to: Friends of Scarborough Public Safety)

Mike Stephenson, President Friends of Scarborough Public Safety