

Town of Newbury

Police Department Renovation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2021 @ 4:30pm

Attendance: Russ Smith, Bob Wilkonski, Dick Wright, Brad Wheeler, Deb Lacombe, Hank Thomas, Aaron Sparks, Dennis Pavlicek-town administrator, Polly Lowe and Scott Wheeler.

Public: Judy and Stu Hale, Nonie Reynders, J. Scott Warde

Meeting called to order by Polly and she asked Brad if the latest floor plan is a good one and if it meets the department's needs for the future. Polly was also concerned about drain and ventilation in sally port areas to alleviate mold issues. Polly also felt that the landscaping as proposed could be done away with. Discussion concluded that by removing the landscaping on the left side of the building it would be easier for snowplowing.

Polly also passed out an agenda for the meeting and a series of questions from her to Peter Tennant and his responses to those questions. All members of the committee received those questions and answers.

There was also a discussion about the bidding process and timelines for a public hearing as well as when the public hearing should occur before the final budget hearing in January.

Bob had questions about a grant for a new generator and Dennis will be working on that issue.

Polly felt Brad should present his concerns about safety at any public hearing. There was also discussion about needing real cost estimates for any public presentation. There was discussion about the need for officer safety and a lock-up after several incidents in the current police station. Brad stated that crime and arrests are up in Newbury and the current station is not adequate for his officers to safely do their job.

Next meeting is Dec. 21 at 4:30 in the town office. Both Peter Tennant and a North Branch representative will be present to discuss actual cost numbers.