

Pam Bryk

From: Steve Whitman <steve@resilienceplanning.net>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Dennis Pavlicek; Pam Bryk
Cc: Karen Fitzgerald; Steve Whitman
Subject: Safety Services Memo
Attachments: Memo to BOS_Facilitation Services_September 25_2017.docx; Newbury Safety Services Public Forum Notes.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dennis,

Attached you will find a memo we prepared for the BOS to summarize our findings and thoughts on next steps. We hope this will help them as they work to identify next steps. Please let us know if you would like us to attend a final meeting with the Board or if this action concludes our involvement in this project.

We would like to thank you for involving us in this project. It was a pleasure to be able to serve the Town of Newbury!

Steve

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To: Newbury Board of Selectmen
From: Steve Whitman and Karen Fitzgerald
Date: September 25, 2017
Re: Facilitation Services

To conclude our involvement in the safety service conversations in Newbury we wanted to send you a memo outlining our findings and some thoughts on next steps. Involvement in the project meetings and community forums was strong from May through September. We have created summary notes from each of these events so that you have them to refer to as you move forward. There seems to be some positive energy focused on finding alternatives to the existing building, and planning for the construction of new facilities. While this enthusiasm is not unanimous, or without concern, there seems to be a general understanding that something needs to happen.

It is still unclear to many that this is a health and safety issue for the department staff, and for the public if the building is needed as an emergency shelter. While many participants understand that more space is needed to perform department duties, cost is still the biggest obstacle for the majority of people. As costs are identified it is important that the tax implications are broken down in a way that property owners can easily understand. This was done at the September forum and clarified the cost issue for most people.

There appears to be the most support for the creation of a new fire station on the Bald Sunapee/Camacho property, and a renovated and expanded police station in the existing safety services building. Related to a new fire station there is still concern over the necessary excavation and proximity to the playground, but these issues can be minimized through design solutions. The town currently has several possible layouts for a new station that accommodate the needs of the department into the future and provide the community with critical emergency shelter.

Renovation of the existing safety services building into an expanded police station would provide an opportunity to make several improvements in the center of the village as well. This includes reducing the curb cut in this location, extending the sidewalk, and using the remainder

of the building for storage and other needs town departments may have. The façade can also be improved during this process to make the police department more inviting. This alternative was not one that was explored by the previous two committee efforts. As a result it would require a conceptual study and cost estimate to get a handle on the projects complexity and overall expense.

Now that the conversation has started again and participants are sharing their thoughts we suggest that the Board of Selectmen maintain this line of communication. It was suggested that the website, town newsletter, social media, and even direct mail be used to tell the property owners what is being considered and to regularly collect feedback. This will likely require frequent communications to property owners over the coming months, and opportunities for property owners to provide feedback. It may also be useful to establish a dedicated webpage including the most up to date scenario, anticipated costs, and tax impact information so people understand how their tax bill will be impacted.

It is clear that the need for new facilities is not going away and that construction costs are continuing to rise. As you move forward we hope that staff and supporters of both departments will continue to participate and help spread the word in the community. Their support during our involvement was extremely helpful and appreciated by the many participants!

Newbury Safety Services Public Forum – Public Comments

9/12/2017

Newbury Town Hall Meeting Room

6:00 pm

- Drive-thru bays building design, could it be done? Seems like a logical idea. – Would require a lot of sitework, drive-through would be parallel to the road.
- Could the playground be moved? Could be relocated to another place in town in order to make more room on the site–
 - Move playground to ex. Fire sta. site?
 - It is located in jurisdictional wetlands
 - Government has more lee-way with wetlands regulations, wetlands may be mitigated, replaced in other location
 - If the playground was not there, the concern over the “pedophiles” that are brought into the police station would not be an issue.
 - Need more info on wetland regulations
 - The 2nd Committee was not allowed to consider moving the playground and/or memorial, per BOS.
 - Move library to Ex. Safety services site
- Current facility is unhealthy for our fire staff and volunteers, this is a serious problem, need to have a new facility now, and for the future. We need to protect the men and women who protect us.
- We need to give firefighters the highest consideration they are an asset we need to protect and honor
- We need to look into the future to attract new volunteers, and provide safety
- Dangerous gasses in the building are a problem
- Road site distance is a problem
- Boat rapid deployment is difficult, could there be a floating dock
- The design presented last year represents many hours of time and effort. We are not looking to house more equipment, we need to adequately house the equipment we have now.
- Recue truck needs bigger space
- Hard to modify a building that is not adequate.
- The combined building (Police and Fire) was considered to big by public

- The costs for the combined building were actually higher than two separate building because of needed separation of the two uses.
- Need to get more people to come to these meetings
- Change time from 6 pm to 7pm, 6:00 is too early for working people.
- Playground at ex. Fire station site would be dangerous because of traffic & site distance in that location
- We need an architectural study of re-use of ex. Building, study, may use the site for new building depending on costs, may be cheaper to build new.
- The more complicated the plan (moving playground, redev. of existing site, new buildings) the less chance of it passing at town meeting vote.
- Send a newsletter to all residents and property owners with all the info on the project, include a “yes” and “No” box to check to gage informal vote.
- We see a bigger turn-out tonight than in past meetings, outreach is having an effect.
- What is the threshold for the price tag?
- We need clarification of cost impacts to tax payers, have heard more than one scenario.
- We also need project delay impacts to costs – each year the project is delayed, the project costs will go up
- We need a 2/3 vote, it is important to get the “NO” voters on board.