

Newbury, NH

Safety Services Public Forum #1 - Notes

June 24, 2017

Location, 3 locations were 'promised' to be considered in earlier work by committees – only one was presented as an option. What happened to other locations?

- Clarification: 3 locations were looked at for the Vet Memorial.

Pat Sherman Clarification: The Committee looked at 2 sites, the existing and the site next to Library, and 3 options: Stay at existing site, Fire dept only at new site, fire and police at new site.

- The existing site was determined to be deficient for a new bldg.
- Police Dept next to playground was not supported. Ex. Fire Sta. site does not allow for NHDOT required traffic site lines.
- Ex. Bld does not meet structural requirements for firehouse code.
- It would not be cost effective to try to refurbish existing building.

What about the Village Rd (blinking light) site?

- Response time problems, not central enough location to serve emergency response time needs of the town.
- Site was limited, not adequate for needs of building.

Police Chief: The fire dept. location is much more critical for adequate response times than the Police dept location. Police are out and about in cruisers, not sitting in the station. A central location for the Fire Station is important.

Could the fire dept remain in existing location and move the Police sta. to new location?

Should Police and Fire be kept together?

Police call volumes have remained pretty much the same over the last decade, whereas the Fire calls have risen. Most of the calls are medical/emergency, not 'fires'

Aging population = more medical emergencies

Could police station expand in existing building?

- Police Chief: that building does not meet the needs of the police dept.

Why do we need a 5 bay bld. When most calls are medical emergencies?

- Number of bays does not necessarily equal the number of overhead doors. A 'bay' is an area for a piece of equipment, bays can be stacked front to back (two bays could be accessed by one overhead door). However, overhead doors increase efficiency and safety, it is optimal for each bay to have its own OH door.

- Currently Fire Dpt. uses 2 bays in S. Newbury and the highway garage to store equipment including boats. And the historical Fire truck.

The current bld. does not allow for accommodation of a ladder truck.

Why does the town need a ladder truck, no buildings in town are the size that requires the use of the ladder truck?

- Response: Not so, there is a complex in town that a ladder truck would be needed, and there will be future needs for a ladder truck.

Fire Chief: If Newbury owned all the equipment and apparatus necessary for large fires or emergencies it would need many times the space and equipment. But this is solved by the Regional system. Newbury is part of a regional firefighting system which allows towns in a region to share resources. Newbury helps out surrounding towns, and those towns in-turn respond to incidences in Newbury when needed. That way each town does not need to purchase and maintain all the apparatus.

Fire Chief: Bunk rooms would allow for student interns who are in training to stay in the firehouse in exchange for manning the department 24/7. This would eliminate the paid full-time personnel that will eventually be needed.

How are property values increased with new fire station? Personal property Insurance goes up when fire services are not adequate. (response to bullet on "Fire Deficiencies" poster)

What would be the Impacts to existing playground and vet memorial?

- Reponse: last plans developed show no impact to either.

Police Chief: The Police dept is basically a 'house" 2,600 square feet of space. The vets hall would be a great location for the Police Dept if expanded. It would also centralize "Armed Forces" related activities.

Most agree the need is there, It's the \$4million price tag!

Price and design comparisons to other towns of similar size would be helpful. Look at Grantham.

How do we include the community more in the decisions be made?