

Public Hearing Minutes  
Monday, February 11, 2013

Present: Chairman Smith; Selectman Darcy; Selectman Ebbighausen; Selectman Rideout; Selectman Schill; TA Collins and Peter Tennant, Architect.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Smith opened the Public Hearing.

TA Collins gave a handout to the public and the Selectmen, regarding the proposed Police Station, for review.

The \$75,000.00 expendable trust was discussed for the use of funding cost for the construction of the new Police Station. Wal-Mart's development fund that has been set aside was discussed. Obtaining a possible bond in the amount of \$70,773.00 to help in the funding of the new Police Station. Payment tax increase would be around \$22.33 per \$150,000.00 annually. ( See handout attached hereto). Because the Town is coming off of other bonds and debts, it gives the opportunity to obtain bonds for this project while the interest rates are low.

Peter Tennant, Architect, presented a slideshow of a new proposed plan for the new Police Station. The cost of this proposal is about \$1,125,636.00, which includes proposed costs of property, demolition costs, architect fees, garage and site work on property and building behind the "store". Mr. Tennant explained that he has had many discussions with Chief Todd Faulkner in regards to the size and needs of the Police Department. Mr. Tennant went over several design plans with the Chief of Police and this plan seems to work the best for the Police Department and fit with the Down Town area. This plan opens the space up more and it is not as long as the old plan. This would bring the training room up front and keep the sally port out back and less visible. There seem to be more pluses to the new design and the tax impact of the project is surprising low. The Police Department would like to invite the public, by appointment, to come and visit the Police Station on River Street, so they may have a better idea of what is needed at the new Police Station.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting to the public with any questions or comments.

A member of the public had some concerns regarding the Todd Block, (seniors and disabled housing facility), side that is facing the proposed Police Station and the sally port being out back. The sally port is a secured area and no incoming individuals would be coming in or out of the sally port unless accompanied by an officer. The Public entrance to the Police Station would be in front of the building with public parking on Main Street. The only other traffic entering behind the building would be the police cruisers.

There was a concern regarding asbestos exposure. CDGB testing had to be done and there is one effected pipe currently in the building. The pipe will be covered, securely and properly disposed of. Concerns of possible lead paint exposure was mentioned, and was let know that there are certain guidelines that need to be followed when disposing of a building.

A property abutter of 8-10 Main Street had some concerns regarding trees on his property. He was informed nothing on his property that would be disturbed.

A member of the public mentioned that this plan is just a conceptual design. When design is finalized then the more detailed concerns should be addressed.

A question came up regarding the change between 860,000.00 and 875,000.00, this was due to the garage not being included in the first design plan.

The ins and out of the proposed structure were discussed including the garage design.

The question of the process of this discussion at Town Meeting came up. If the bond passes then the Town will acquire the property "Vet Clinic" and future Architects and Engineers will bring proposal before the Selectmen of their bids. The bids cannot come in higher than the bond.

Vote of the Warrant Article 2 will be at the School on March 16, 2013 at 9:30am. The School's Meeting will be held first.

A member of the public wanted it made noted that he felt that a new Police Station is a necessary expense for the town. He thought it would be a good idea for the Police Station to come into town and would help the downtown have a nice controlled area and show we are growing as a community. The town has saved a lot of money keeping the station at River Road. With this propose design the Police Station will be there a long time. The Garage will help in emergency situations, i.e. snow removal. Let build it righ.

The Police Station located on River Road has been there since 1982. It is a good location at 8-10 Main Street for our Police Station. It would help keep our downtown structured and could be appealing for new business to come into our downtown area.

7:30 p.m. The Public Hearing was closed.