

Town of Sudbury ~ Finance Committee
Monday – October 23, 2006
Police Station (Rte20) – 7:00pm
Lower Town Hall – 8:00pm

Present: Chair Bob Jacobson, Tracy Billig, William Kneeland, Marty Ragonas, Larry Rowe, Sheila Stewart, Charles Woodard, Ralph Verni, and Debbie Zurka

Item 1: Tour of existing police station

Chief of Police, Peter Fadgen, provide the members of the Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Planning Committee a tour of the station located on Route 20. Before the tour began, each committee member was provided with a set of two blueprints. One showing the layout of the current station. The other blueprint shows how the station was to be set up after the 1981 renovations. The prints were provided to show that some of the offices/rooms have been removed to meet the different mandated requirements in regards to the location of the cells and holding rooms.

Chief Fadgen started the tour describing how the main entrance area has been reduced in size to accommodate the storage space for the computerized equipment that is used these days. The station has two 911 dispatches that are now used.

Off of the main entrance was the dispatch area. The chief pointed out an area by the dispatcher's desk where there was a hole in the wall, with a large amount of wires coming out of the wall.

The chief described how the secretaries and officers have to open and shut the office windows from outside of the building. The windows within the station are no longer manufactured, so they cannot get replacement parts to fix them.

The chief described how the booking area had been made into the juvenile holding cell. While looking at the cells, the chief pointed out the fact that some of the electrical outlets could not be used, because they keep catching fire every time something is plugged into them. During the winter months, space heaters have to be brought within the area of the cells if there is a prisoner being held.

The committee was shown the area that was once a holding cell, but had to be made into an area for the officers to complete their reports. It is a small work area, consisting of one computer. There are 4 to 5 officers per shift, so there are times when they have to wait to get to use the computer to get their reports completed.

The corridors are used by both the prisoners and the public/staff. This could become a liability for the Town. Currently, the prisoners are not booked in a secure area. The ideal situation would be to have the prisoners in an area where they do not come in contact with the public.

The weapons, evidence, records, and supplies are all kept in the same storage area. For this reason there are only a couple of employees with access to this room.

The committee took a break in order to reconvene at the Lower Town Hall.

Item 2: Discussion of status of the police station

Town Manager, Maureen Valente, provide the committee with a handout hi-lighting parts of her presentation for the planning of a new police station.

Maureen Valente started her discussion by stating her goals for this presentation:

1. Recap planning for the past 7 years
2. Present draft Financing Plan for this project
3. Present draft 5-year Facility and Debt Plan

Good news first.....Really big projects have been completed. \$117 million has been authorized. These projects received funding at low interest rates and high SBA reimbursement rates. Aggressive issuance schedules have saved millions in interest costs for school projects. There was outstanding cooperation from all to get the school needs met at the best possible cost to the Town.

Bad news.....the Town has facilities still in bad shape and inadequate for its mission.

Good news again.....The Town has been planning for these projects and has support for the Police Station project from the schools, which the Town supported for their projects – a town working together. The Police Station and another major Town project can be completed without seeing an increase in taxes for these capital projects.

Facilities Planning Timeline

- 2000 – Master Facilities Study Article Approved
- 2001 – DPW Facility Article Approved
- 2003 – Master Facilities Report mad to Town Meeting
- 2004 – Police Station Feasibility Study Approved
- 2006 – Article for Police Station Construction Postponed to 2007 Town Meeting
- 2007 – Article for Police Station Construction ??

Why do other study?

- Town Manager Act has changed perspective
- New Capital Improvement Committee
- New Master Plan
- Look at interrelationships among services
- Need to link our facilities to service delivery plans and technology over longer term period

Process

- Analysis of existing and future needs
- Analysis of risks of doing nothing
- Assessment of land and buildings to meet needs
- Evaluate underutilized resources
- Develop comprehensive plan
- Recommend implementation strategies

History of Town Projects

- 19981 – Police Station Renovation \$575,000
- 1989 – Senior Center \$875,000
- 1990 – Fire Headquarters \$1.2 million
- 1995 – Goodnow Library Project \$2.9 million (Total actually \$4.9 million)
- 2001 – DPW/Community Services Building (Voters already approved Debt Exemption of DPW Facility)

Marty Ragonese asked if there would be a presentation on the projected new station next month. Maureen Valente stated yes. She will be presenting this to the other committees. She informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen has not taken a final vote on this matter.

Chuck Woodard asked how long the \$8.2 million estimate provided by the architect is good for. He was told it will be good for the next 12 months.

Marty Ragonese asked if land would need to be acquired for this project. Maureen Valente stated no, that the Town would use the land located on the side of the fire station headquarters on Hudson Road.

Item 3: Liaison Meeting Updates

Bill Kneeland informed everyone that the first meeting with LS was about two weeks ago. Their next scheduled meeting is on November 9th. He has not received any feedback on the guidelines memo that was sent out.

Debbie Zurka informed the committee that she has met with the Town Manager. She stated that Maureen believes she will be able to get of the information together that the committee is looking for. Not sure if she will be able to get everything together by Nov. 20th. Maureen is currently concentrating on the negotiations with the Fire, Police, and DPW departments. The FY08 figures that are provided will be the actual FY06 figures. The financial summit is in the planning stages, and is set to take place on November 28th.

Bob Jacobson stated that the LS stadium project is moving along. They are getting ready to go out to bid in early November. The questions right now are in regards to how the fields should be lined. If they decided to paint the lacrosse lines, this will add another \$10 to \$15,000 to the cost. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1st.

Item 4: Approve Budget Hearings Schedule

Bob Jacobson stated the order of the hearings is the same as last year. The only difference is that the hearings will be starting a day later than last year.

Item 5: Approve Meeting Minutes

VOTED: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2006 meeting. Motion made by Larry Rowe and seconded by Bill Kneeland. On vote, motion carries 9 in support and 0 opposed.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:05pm.