

## Police Department Study Committee

Minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10am with Chief Ulwick, Andy Fitch, Craig Moore, Ray Mason, Alan Cilley, Lt. Derek Gray, Andrew Benton, and Marissah Gallien in attendance.

Andy Fitch put forth to the committee that a Chairman should be selected and nominated Chief Ulwick, the Chief accepted the nomination and the Committee's consensus solidified the Chief as Chairman.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Andy provided the group with a packet that included the insurance company's risk assessment of the current Police Department Building, a list of the 4 areas for the new building that have been talked about, a map of the area and tax card for 6 Collins Street.

The discussion started with 6 Collins Street. Craig stated that he has contacted the soil monitoring company about the test pits. Andy stated that the State renewed the monitoring for 5 years and that there is a possibility of an extension of an additional 5 years. It is unknown at this time if the test pits need to be open or not, but this is an item to explore as one of the site options would be over these pits. The committee wondered if the State does not need to have the pits open moving forward, to see if that could be taken care of prior to building a new Police Department if the building should be on the 132 side of 6 Collins St.

Chief Ulwick outlined the 4 sites that have been discussed so far,

1. 132 Side of 6 Collins St (this site has progressed the most so far)
2. I -93 corridor by the on ramp (discussed potential purchase from State)
3. West side of the Electric Building by the salt shed
4. DPW to move to a new facility by Water & Sewer and PD take over current DPW facility

Chief Ulwick spoke about the expectations for this committee. He stated that the purpose of the committee is to explore all options to determine the most cost effective and sustainable option for the future.

### **I-93 OPTION:**

Regarding the I-93 option, the Town would need to obligate \$500 for an assessment on the piece of land before the purchase can be made and the State has said that the purchase price would be at fair market value and non-negotiable. Chief Ulwick commented that he is unsure if this option would be feasible. The lot has just over 4 acres in it, and the State would be willing to split it up, however there are noted drainage issues, but the site also is a clean slate as there has not been anything built there before and would allow for extending plans for a safety services building if the Town wanted to pursue at some point, a place for the Fire Department as well.

**NEW DPW OPTION:**

Regarding the DPW move to a new facility, Chief Ulwick stated that this is a new idea. A building would be needed for DPW and the idea would be to build near the sand pit. DPW also received an unfavorable opinion from the insurance company about the sand sheds as they are in need of repair. The insurance company said that Craig could do work to improve the sheds, however the work would need to be certified by an engineer.

**WEST SIDE OF ELECTRIC BUILDING OPTION:**

Chief Ulwick and Craig Moore both feel that the West side of Electric would benefit both departments. The structure they would be looking at would be 2 floors, the second floor would be administrative only and have no access to the public. This option would also allow for an additional bay for DPW and is considered by some in the committee to be the cleaner side of the Electric building regarding the septic portion of the project and the test pits. Andrew commented that this option could save money by helping both departments at the same time.

**132 SIDE OF ELECTRIC BUILDING OPTION:**

Alan had presented the group with a potential outline of a building for the land between the Electric building and the Electric shed. The Chief had provided Alan with a list of needs that the Police Department would have for a new facility and Alan did an outline of rooms inside of his drawing. The drawing contains 13 equal sized rooms. Although there was concern that not all of the needs could be met in the building Alan drew up, Lt. Gray and Chief Ulwick said they would go through the list and the drawing to see how things could be placed as not all rooms need to be the same size. At this point this option has had the most work put into it.

**FUNDING:**

The committee is concerned about obtaining funding for engineering work to be done. Andy said that he would speak with the Board to see if there could be funds available for such work when the time comes.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION CONTINUED:**

The Chief stated that all options are on the table until due diligence has been met to take options off the table. The committee worked on a Pros & Cons list for each of the proposed sites and will continue to work on the list as they go through the process. One of the benefits discussed of either location at the 6 Collins St lot is that the Town owns the property across the street which could be used as a parking lot. The committee will look to measure the lot to see how many spaces it could accommodate.

Before the meeting ended the Chief made a comment to the committee. The Chief advised that at this point in the exploration all options are on the table. All those on the committee have different perspectives which will aid the committee in finding the best option for the Town. The goal of the committee is to put together the best option to go before the Board of Selectmen and the Town.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am