

A Regular meeting was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 beginning at 6:00pm in the Senior Center at Town Hall. Mrs. Mackenzie and Mr. Timson were absent. The following members were present.

Mark Gallivan, Chairman
Clifton Snuffer
James Stanton

Also present:
James Johnson, Interim Town Administrator
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant
Police Chief Richard Stillman
Fire Chief Timothy Bailey
Health Director, Robin Chapell
COA Director, Courtney Riley

Mr. Gallivan called the meeting to order.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES PLAN

The Board of Selectmen invited the elder residents of the community to attend a brief presentation of the Municipal Facilities Plan. They presented the PowerPoint presentation. It was noted this is a fifty year problem. The town should have been constructing new buildings instead of waiting to do them all at once. The Police Station was constructed in 1881 as a Town Hall and converted to the Police Station. The Fire Station was originally constructed as a Police/Fire Station. Mr. Gallivan explained there will be a free pancake breakfast on Sept 6th at the Fire Station and this will provide residents the opportunity to view the current conditions of the facilities. He explained one problem with the current fire station is the trucks are larger and do not fit in the current facility.

Do to the size of the Council on Aging room, when you run a program you cannot do anything else. He had visited several facilities in other towns to see what they constructed. He noted that there are Walpole residents who frequent other Senior Centers. He wants to upgrade the quality of the Council on Aging building. This was a school built in 1952 and turned into the Council on Aging in 1983.

He went onto discuss the proposal on South Street and the removal of the buildings on the left side. Robin spoke to this being a contaminated site and the town has been working on having it cleaned. It has been ongoing for over thirty years. The responsible parties will construct a water treatment plant. She would not support anything unless it was safe. What the town will get will be safe. The town has been working on this for a number of years.

Lloyd Smith-It is not a complete clean up. Mr. Gallivan agreed, that was an EPA decision. Robin explained there are not Superfund sites that are cleaned up to zero contamination. The parking lot will be constructed with barriers and it will protect the town.

A resident asked if the barrier underneath the parking lot could be breached. Robin explained there will be a lot of engineering and the responsible parties will monitor. There is Asbestos and metals and other material in the ground.

Mr. Gallivan explained what the proposed DPW site improvements are. The Fire Dept. will need to go to the DPW yard temporarily while the Fire Station is being renovated. This will also improve the DPW yard and the town will not have to lease a building. Once the Fire Dept. moves out of the temporary space, the DPW will use it for Vehicle maintenance etc. The cost will be approximately 3.95 million. The cost of connecting the new fire station to the old police station will be around 9.9 million.

When the COA moves out of this space, it will provide more room for offices for Town Hall.

He reviewed the Project timeline with the residents. The largest cost for the override is \$160.00 a year. The total cost they will be asking for is 21million as they have 10million set aside. He reviewed where those funds would come from. That brings the project total to 31million.

Henry Scanzio questioned if the State has any grants for Senior Centers? They believe there may be one for about \$750,000.

Mr. Snuffer noted it is a lot of money when you look at the overall cost. What you get is a fifty year solution.

Courtney prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the need for a new Senior Center. She informed the audience the Senior Center today is much different than it was fifty years ago. The mission of the center is to offer a variety of educational, social and health related programs to people 60+. Walpole Seniors make up twenty percent of the population.

Currently 405 seniors use the Walpole Center. Most of them being females. She reviewed the outreach services and how the town can support continued growth of the senior center. It was noted the current center is one large room which will only allow for one program at a time.

The Office of Elder affairs states that when a town builds a new center the usage goes up. We will not be staring at a parking lot for a view. We are not close to what we can do for our Elders in Town. A new facility will allow for additional programs.

Bernie Goba, Chairman of the EDIC told the residents they have made Walpole what it is. They have improved the quality of life for themselves as well as their children. You do the best with what you have.

A resident noted that some centers have outside areas for activities. He wanted to know what happens if the override fails.

Mr. Gallivan stated they are committed to doing something on the site. The question is what we will build. He would want to use the money for a senior center.

A resident asked if there is other land in town where the Senior Center could be built. Mr. Gallivan explained the Maguire Group had suggested to put it on the Washington Street site but it is too close to the wells.

Robert Moody had visited other centers and noticed they have no room for expansion. It was explained this site would have room.

Public Access TV Committee

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to reaffirm the appointment of James D'Attilio as the School Committee Representative on the Citizens Public Access TV Committee, seconded by Mr. Stanton, VOTED 3-0-0

Mr. Johnson updated the Board on the AFSCME Agreements.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to adjourn at 7:30pm , seconded by Mr. Stanton, VOTED 3-0-0