

Permanent Building Committee  
Walpole Town Hall - Main Meeting Room  
February 9, 2016  
Minutes

PRESENT: Jack Conroy, Bernie Goba, David Wildnauer, Jack Fisher, Phil Wild

ALSO PRESENT: James Johnson, Thomas Gregory, Chief Bailey, Chief Carmichael, Deputy Chief Mackenzie, Don Anderson, Maggie Walker, Chris Johnson, Bob O'Brien, Warren Schwartz

Mr. Conroy convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Acceptance of Minutes

On a **motion** by Mr. Fisher, **second** by Mr. Wildnauer, the Committee **voted (5-0)** to accept the minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

There was a discussion about when to schedule future PBC meetings. There was agreement that meetings would be scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month, and that the second Tuesday will be reserved on an as-needed basis.

Fire Station Siting Options

Mr. Johnson provided preliminary comments about the options involved in the site planning for the new fire station.

Mr. Schwartz of Schwartz/Silver presented both options: one, building over the existing footprint which will involve costs associated with a temporary operations at a different site; two, building behind the existing building which would require some significant grading and site work as well as the loss of 34 parking spaces and the relocation of utility wires and a fire hydrant. Schwartz Silver recommends the siting of the new building over the existing footprint. The presentation focused on the possible temporary apparatus options to be sited possibly at the DPW yard.

Mr. Conroy raised a concern about coordinating the construction of the new fire station which so that it would not interrupt police operation at its current location. There was a discussion about how to retain parking spaces at the current police station. Mr. Conroy added that we will need to be prepared to answer questions about why not use a temporary steel structure permanently for the fire station at the DPW yard. He commented that the estimated cost for the temporary apparatus bays appears low. Mr. Johnson explained that he is interested in getting feedback about whether we should use a canvas type temporary building or a more permanent steel-frame structure which can be used by DPW after the fire station project.

When asked by Mr. Conroy, Chief Bailey commented that response times will increase with a temporary fire operation sited at the DPW yard, adding that the Fire Department does not have enough fire personnel to locate an ambulance at some location other than the temporary operation at the DPW yard if this option is selected.

Mr. Wildnauer explained that he is supportive of building over the existing fire station footprint. He then inquired about the future use of the old police station and is concerned about its re-use. Mr. Fisher echoed the same sentiment adding that we should not “orphan” the old police station. Mr. Johnson explained that there has been no substantive discussion to date on the re-use of the building. Mr. Schwartz explained that it would be very expensive to re-purpose the old police station as fire administration.

Mr. Goba is supportive of building a new station over the existing footprint. He added that the architect should include in the site design enough parking for the police station during the construction.

#### Police Station Project Update

Mr. Johnson explained to the Committee that the most current plan involves a one-story 14,600 building which gives the police everything they need except a third lieutenant’s office. It includes an EM office and an expanded training room. An out-building is planned to address the ATV, bikes, and securing vehicles after seizure. The current plan is similar to the Abington and Duxbury stations. Mr. Johnson stated that he is confident at this point that the new police station will be built within the existing \$9M appropriation.

Mr. Goba expressed a concern about the station’s alignment on South Street and would prefer to see a more welcoming entrance fronting on South Street. Other members shared the same sentiment.

There was consensus that Carell Group needs to further the design of the police station before they come before the Committee and answer specific questions.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gregory  
Assistant Town Administrator