

Building and Facilities Committee  
Minutes of 1-16-20  
Syd Crook Room; 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bowers, Bianchi, Cardillo, Beasley, Lewis, Hoglund, Cross, Sherman, Cannon

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. *Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the previous meeting of January 9, 2020 were reviewed by the Committee and were then approved unanimously.

2. *Reports*

The Chair reported that he had contacted Scott Blewitt, Rec. Dept. Director, about meeting with the Committee on February 13. Mr. Blewitt requested that the meeting be at 2:00 p.m. on that date, at the Whipple Hall conference room. There being no objection, the Chair will schedule Mr. Blewitt for that date, time and location, and will request that Mr. Blewitt have available the Town van to take the Committee to the sewer plant property to view the Rec. Dept. use at that location. He also informed the Committee that he had reached out to Louis Botta, Director of the Emergency Management Committee, but had not yet heard back. He will pursue this, along with scheduling tentative dates for Supt. Feneberg related to space that might be available at the SAU facility, and Ben Drummond, Chair of the Outing Club, related to the possibility of space for the Rec. Dept. at any new building constructed by the Outing Club in New London. He will also contact Bob Harrington, DPW, and the Energy Committee about tentative meetings in early March.

The Chair noted that the Subcommittee did not have a specific name, and recommended that the Committee assign a specific name to the Subcommittee to prevent any future misunderstandings or confusion if the Committee later appointed another subcommittee, for example to look at the specific issue of a facilities manager or a building inspector. The Committee agreed that the Chair would name this current subcommittee the "Police Station Subcommittee."

3. *Discussion of Architect references*

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Mr. Beasley reported on his inquiry into the references provided by Dennis Mires, PA. All were positive, and said they would retain the firm again without hesitation. Mr. Cross noted that he had contact with a firm which had worked with Dennis Mires, PA, and that firm also reported its relationship with them was excellent, and would gladly work with them in the future if the occasion arose.

*4. Vote on recommendation to Selectmen*

It was the unanimous recommendation of the Police Station Subcommittee at the January 9, meeting that the full Committee recommend to the Selectmen the hiring of Dennis Mires, PA, subject to the Subcommittee following up on that firm's references. Since Mr. Beasley reported that the references were acceptable and no adverse issues were raised, the contingency of the recommendation has been met.

The recommendation of the Police Station Subcommittee being before the Committee, after full discussion, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Committee recommends to the Selectmen that the architectural firm of Dennis Mires, PA be retained and that the Building and Facilities Committee negotiate the terms of the contract, which will be submitted to the Selectmen for their approval.

*5. Discussion of next steps on Buker/Subcommittee*

Mr. Sherman informed the Committee that the Subcommittee would undertake to establish a schedule for entering into a contract and all the actions arising out of that contract and the work to be done; and would report back to the Committee.

*6. Other items to come before the Committee*

The Chair noted that the Committee had approved a proposed timeline for future meetings and that the development of a contract and process by the Subcommittee would occupy a significant amount of time. Thus, there appeared to be no need to have a meeting on January 23. He proposed that the next meeting be held on January 30. This would be after the Selectmen's meeting on January 27, at which the foregoing recommendation would be presented. The Committee was in agreement with this proposal. There ensued discussion on the topics to be covered at that meeting, and it was suggested that the Committee

take up the question related to a Town building inspector. After discussion, it was agreed to do so, and it was further suggested that the Chair invite Peter Stanley, Nicole Gage, Zoning Administrator, Jay Lyon, Fire Chief, and such other persons as may be able to add context to the discussion. The Chair will also forward to the Committee the Municipal Association article on this subject.

*7. Action Items.*

- a. The Chair will forward the recommendation of the Committee to the Selectmen and will appear before the Selectmen at its meeting on January 27, 2020, on that issue.
- b. The Chair will confirm with Mr. Blewitt meeting with the Committee on February 13, 2020; and will forward to him a questionnaire for that purpose.
- c. The Police Station Subcommittee will determine the timing and process for carrying out the next steps with regard to the hiring of the architect.
- d. The Chair will invite participants to the meeting on January 30, who may have relevant input to the discussion of a building inspector; and will forward the Municipal Association article on this subject to the Committee.

The next meeting is in the Syd Crook Room, on Thursday, January 30, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Bowers, Chair