

Building and Facilities Committee

Minutes of 8-25-20; Whipple Hall

Members Present: Bowers, Beasley, Bianchi, Cross, Cannon, Hogle, Sherman; Absent: Cardillo

Also present: Chief Cobb, NLPD; Donna Larrow, NLPD Admin.; Kim Hallquist, Town Admin.

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

*1. Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 18, 2020 were reviewed by the Committee and were then approved, Hogle abstaining.

*2. Police Department presentation*

*3. Police Department presentation*

The Chair introduced Chief Cobb, whom he had invited to discuss the Police Department and its needs in more general terms than discussed by the Subcommittee. Chief Cobb indicated that she had nothing she wished to add to the discussion beyond what has been reported and the work of the Subcommittee. Mr. Sherman inquired whether she had any recommendation to offer the Committee as to the options under consideration for the Police Station, particularly as to the Mires proposal and the Harriman proposal for a new station on a separate site. Chief Cobb responded that she did not have a recommendation at this time, as she did not feel she had been in office as Chief sufficiently long to have developed an informed opinion.

As to the Mires Report itself, discussion centered on an understanding between the Committee and Chief Cobb that that Report detailed what could and could not be accomplished for the Police Department “within the walls” of the Buker building, and that it fully reflected those issues. The Chair noted that if the Mires alternative was ultimately recommended and approved for bonding at a Town meeting, there would be a process of review and modification of the original proposal before any final plans were approved.

The Chair then called for a vote to formally accept the Subcommittee’s Report (submission memo attached). Since it is a formal report of a subcommittee, it is before the full Committee without motion.

It was then unanimously VOTED to accept the Report of the Subcommittee.

4. *Discussion of Police Station Alternatives*    Deferred.
5. *Other items to come before the Committee*    None.
6. *Action Items.*

The Chair will have 10 hard copies of the Mires Report made for distribution to the Committee and participants.

The next meeting is at Whipple Hall, on Thursday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m., at Whipple Hall.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Bowers, Chair

MEMO

To: Buildings and Facilities Committee

From: New London Police Department Subcommittee

Date: August 18, 2020

Re: New London Police Department Subcommittee

Attached please find a report prepared by Dennis Mires, P.A., setting forth a plan for renovation of the existing police department and recreation department space within the existing Buker and Whipple Hall structure.

The report is the result of work performed by Dennis Mires, hired by the Select Board based on the recommendation of the Buildings and Facilities Committee; the subcommittee worked in concert with Mr. Mires over several months in the data collection, analysis and presentation, For reference purposes, it is important to re-emphasize, in addition to Mr. Mires' qualification as represented in his response to the town issued RFP, Mr Mires further qualified:

- His familiarity with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Law Enforcement Agency Standards;
- His knowledge and background with other police departments and safety services in other towns where he has developed further experience related to the construction and program needs of police departments, and of the rules, regulations and standards that apply;
- That he reviewed the laws, codes, and regulations applicable to this project;
- That he utilized experienced police department planning as part of the team;
- That he had reviewed the prior reports related to the Buker building which had been supplied to him, specifically including the Harriman Report, and the chart in that Report specifying work that Harriman felt should be done;
- That he reviewed the work that had already been completed in the building, based upon information supplied by Bob Harrington, Director, New London Dept. of Public Works and by North Branch Construction;
- That he is familiar with Space Needs Assessments (SNA) referred to in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in their Police Facilities Planning Guidelines (also referred to in the Harriman Report), and is familiar with those Guidelines;
- That he is familiar with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Critical Facility Design Considerations, and that the current Police Facility was in compliance

with those recommendations when it was constructed;

- That he is familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA), and considered those requirements in his advice and proposal, including provision for an elevator in that proposal, and;
- That he is familiar with the rules and regulations related to life safety issues, including the need for a sprinkler system, as they pertain to police department design and construction.

The attached is not a recommendation, but rather is a report that provides further clarity on what functions requested by the police department can be accommodated within the walls of the existing police department and recreation department space, and at what cost.

The subcommittee, consisting of Philip Sherman, Chair, Richard Cross and Colin Beasley, recognizes and appreciates the input and contributions of Chief Emily Cobb and Town Administrator Kimberly Hallquist.