

Building and Facilities Committee

Minutes of 9-10-20; Whipple Hall

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

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meetings of August 25, and September 3, 2020 were reviewed and approved by the Committee; Cardillo abstaining from the vote on the minutes of August 25; Bianchi and Cannon abstaining from the vote on the minutes of September 3.

2. Discussion of Police Station alternatives

The Chair inquired of the Committee how it wished to proceed with regard to the options which have been reviewed. The Committee then addressed the option under consideration for the construction on a new police department building. After discussing the pros and cons of that option, upon Motion made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the Building and Facilities Committee does not recommend a new building for the Police Department.

There followed discussion that the pros and cons supporting this decision will be included in the Fourth Report to the Selectmen. It was also the decision of the Committee that the next meeting should be devoted to the form and substance of the Fourth Report.

Further discussion ensued related to the other options under consideration. The options discussed were: 1. Do nothing at the present time; 2. Make only those changes necessary for safety and security of the premises and the operation of the Department, as determined by Chief Cobb; 3. Renovate current space occupied by the Police Department, with the Recreation Department remaining in the space it now occupies; and 4. Renovate the space now occupied by the Police Department and the Recreation Department to serve the requirements of the Police Department.

The Committee discussed the safety and security concerns previously identified by the Police Department as a sprinkler system for the main floor of the Buker building; bullet proof windows and walls as needed; security/structural integrity of the radio tower; and separation of the electronic equipment now housed in the room containing the water intake system and piping. The Committee agreed that the actual needs should be identified by Chief Cobb, and the Selectmen should act on her request regarding remedy of those concerns.

There followed discussion that the current operations have continued to operate in the existing space for quite some time and that it would not appear to be an overriding necessity to move forward with an alternative for the Police Department since Chief Cobb has indicated she is not in a position at this point in her tenure to make a recommendation for future space.

The Committee then discussed the option to renovate the Buker building to include the space now occupied by the Recreation Department. It was the conclusion of the Committee that the Subcommittee Report adequately determined that the program requirements for the P.D. could be met in such a renovation, with the exception of having space available to expand office space for supervisory personnel; an enlargement of the sally port area to include sufficient space for large evidence storage, such as an impounded vehicle; and a “dedicated” break room. All other identified needs were met.

The Committee also noted that the current proposal for expansion of the P.D. space is simply a start point for actual design and implementation; and that Chief Cobb’s input as to what might work better for the P.D. within that space was necessary to determine design changes. The Committee also discussed the possibility of additions to the Buker building to meet needs, and noted that the future being unascertainable, it should remain for future discussions whether any addition would be appropriate or necessary.

A motion was made regarding options and was then withdrawn as premature.

The Chair suggested that he prepare a draft Fourth Report to include a Committee analysis of the alternatives as he understands it from discussions to date, which the Committee can review and discuss at its next meeting. He asked

Colin Beasley if he would review that draft prior to presentation to the Committee.

3. *Other items to come before the Committee* None.

4. *Action Items.* The Chair will prepare a draft Fourth Report to include a Committee analysis of the alternatives for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting is at Whipple Hall, on Tuesday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bowers, Chair