

Building and Facilities Committee

Minutes of 9-19-19

Syd Crook Room, Academy Building; 6:30 p.m.

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

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

1. *Approval of Minutes*

The minutes of the previous meeting of September 5, 2019 were reviewed by the Committee, and were then approved unanimously.

2. *Reports*

Mr. Cross reported that there is no further information available regarding the issue of work done by North Branch which he reported at the last meeting.

The Chair reported that the Preliminary Report had been sent to the Selectmen, and would be on the Selectmen's Agenda for their meeting on September 23. He encouraged all members who are able to do so to attend that meeting, to respond to any inquiries the Selectmen may have. He also informed the Committee that there was information available as to the population size of other towns in Merrimack County, and asked if the Committee would like him to inquire of the police departments in towns comparable to New London as to the number of full time officers employed and the gross square feet of the police departments in those towns. The Committee asked the Chair to do so, noting that although the information may be helpful in a general sense, there were clearly differences in New London's Police Dept. and needs as compared to those of other towns.

3. *Discussion of Buker building issues and Police Dept. space needs options.*

Mr. Beasley presented information he had gathered, and a suggested analysis related to that information, of the six options settled on by the Committee. There was general discussion on this topic. Mr. Beasley noted that to properly evaluate the stated sq. ft. requirements, for comparison

purposes, it would be necessary to have input from Harriman and from Chief Andersen as to the national or other written standards applied, and as to any other considerations that were included in reaching the numbers in the Harriman charts. Mr. Bowers explained the protocol established for seeking information from Harriman, through Kim Hallquist, and he will follow through on the Committee's request for information on this point from Harriman. The Committee will refine what questions it may have for Chief Andersen at its next meeting.

Mr. Beasley noted that it is difficult to analyze the sq. ft. applicable in each category due to the manner in which it is presented, and because it is difficult to assess what is "shared space." Overall, there appears to be roughly 2000 sq. ft. of space attributed to the Rec Dept. that could be included for use by the Police Dept.

Mr. Lewis noted that some potential solutions could be unattractive and that the Committee should be cognizant of this issue in its analysis of the several options.

Mr. Beasley informed the Committee that there are two separate bodies related to establishing standards going under the name "CALEA," and that the applicable entity referred to in the Harriman report is most likely "The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies." The Committee will want to ascertain what exactly within those standards is being utilized in the Harriman report and relied upon by Chief Andersen. Once the Committee has a better grasp of what the options are, and what the comparatives are, it would likely be wise to have further discussions with Chief Andersen on the various issues he has raised within the context of the Harriman report.

Mr. Beasley asked Mr. Cross if he could take a look at the building structure needs laid out in the Harriman and Mires reports, and compare that to the work which has been performed by North Branch, so that the Committee can better ascertain what further work may be required.

#### *4. Action Items.*

- a. Chair to inquire of Harriman as to the standards utilized in determining the sq. ft. requirements it stated in its report.
- b. Chair to inquire of other towns in Merrimack County as to the number of full time officers employed and the gross sq. ft. of their police departments.
- c. Chair and Mr. Beasley to meet to refine the analysis prepared by Mr. Beasley, and specifically to include a shortened version of Chief Andersen's report as reflected in the minutes of the Committee's meeting with him.
- d. Mr. Cross to review the building work requirements set forth in the Harriman and Mires reports and compare them to the work performed by North Branch, to include in the analysis of options for discussion at the next meeting.

There will be no meeting on September 26, 2019. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in the Syd Crook room on Thursday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Bowers, Chair