

Princeton MA Public Safety Building Committee Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022
5:00 PM, Town Hall Annex

Member present: Ian Catlow, Felicitas Fandreyer, David Crowley

Members on-line: John Zimmatore, Carl Soderberg,

Others on-line: Nathaniel Boudreau, Ricky Thebeau, Jennifer Greene, Linda Nash, Michele Powers, Matthew Moncrieff, Robert Cumming

The meeting began at 5:33 pm.

First order of business was to review minutes from 12/13/22, 1/18/22, and 1/31/22. The notes were all accepted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Zimmatore then reviewed the survey results he has compiled. Each question was then reviewed in detail with the presentation of pie charts.

- a) a majority of respondents (77%) agree with the need for a new Public Safety Building and 13% are equivocal. 8% don't feel that Princeton needs a new PSB.
- b) Overall, there is a strong concern for the safety of Public Safety personnel (84%)
- c) There is a strong concern for an increase of taxes (approx. 2/3)
- d) PFAS is not a major factor on respondents opinion towards a new PSB
- e) 50/50 split over need for architectural consistency
- f) 50/50 split over agree/disagree that there are more important demands on town finances
- g) 1/3 yes, 1/3 no, 1/3 neither on respondents being hesitant to support PSB due to PFAS situation
- h) 80% would be willing to reconsider once there is a better understanding of finances
- i) 75% believe the town will be better equipped to protect the town during emergencies with a new PSB
- j) 61% agree with investing more now to ensure energy efficiency
- k) 77% disagree that the town does not need a new PSB.
- l) 49% agree that it is important to preserve access to the fields behind the proposed site of the PSB.
- m) 55% agree that the current buildings are a liability for the town.

Mr. Catlow summarized what he thinks are the main positive points to be learned from the survey.

- 1) 70% of respondents feel that having a new PSB will enable responders to better protect the town during emergencies
- 2) Most residents want a building that is safer for the personnel.
- 3) Most respondents support energy efficiency and lowest life cycle costs.
- 4) 50% want access to the fields.

Mr. Crowley thinks it's a good approach to try to move the middle respondents who don't feel strongly rather than convince respondents who are clearly against the new PSB. He notes that 42% responded neither to the question about more important demands on town finances which may indicate that they don't understand the town finances. He also pointed out that 27% say that PFAS issues are not a major factor in their decision to support the PSB.

Mr. Zimmatore would like to correlate answers across questions to discern what is important to the different groups of respondents.

Ms. Nash reports that a virtual tour of the PSB had been available on the town website until the last town meeting.

Mr. Catlow thinks that reaching out to specific individuals to answer questions and share information may be a good plan to convince a few more voters about the importance of a new PSB.

Mr. Crowley asks how we can change the discussions in town about the PSB to have more positives. Mr. Soderberg says he thinks the website could be changed to make it easier to get information on the PSB and Ms. Nash reports that there was a 'find it fast' button for the PSB but now it is gone.

Mr. Catlow would like to prepare 3 information sheets of 1 page each to help summarize information for questioning residents.

- a) Summary of survey result so respondents know that their voices are heard
- b) Infographic presentation with the past few PSB plans and the costs, inflation
- c) Information on how this plan was minimized further and that it is conceptual, continue with detailing further steps in the process towards a construction document

Prior to putting these documents together, the group will need costs and the revised plan back from C&B.

Mr. Catlow gave an update on a possible cost estimate for prefab construction from a company in Maine which will help guide the group in comparing construction method costs. One challenge for prefab construction would be the large apparatus bay.

Mr. Soderberg noted that if prefab was the chosen method, a general contractor with experience with prefab would be required.

Mr. Soderberg reviewed the updated floor plan.

- a) Flipped med storage and FD chief's office
- b) Moved lg evidence storage, armory, added laundry to the clean side of the building, more toilets
- c) Rough estimate of about 12,500 sq ft
- d) 2nd floor shown with mezzanine unfinished but can plan for electrical outlets, front shed dormer over apparatus bay to create windows for egress from mezzanine, hard walled space that can be fitted with a minisplit
- e) Rear shed dormer will allow for more head space on 2nd floor.
- f) Foundation has fewer jogs which helps to lower the cost

Mr. Catlow says the Selectboard is considering a special town meeting for a vote on the PSB in the fall vs having a vote at the Town Meeting in May.

The next meeting will be in 2 weeks at which the revised plans will be available from C&B.

Ms. Fandreyer will send out notes with subjects for the information sheets.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Attachment:

Zimmatore survey results

Soberberg updated floorplan