

Princeton MA Public Safety Building Committee Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022
5:00 PM, Town Hall Annex

Member present: Ian Catlow

Members on-line: Felicitas Fandreyer, David Crowley, John Zimmatore, Carl Soderberg,
Others on-line: Nathaniel Boudreau, Ricky Thebeau, Phil Gott, Jennifer Greene, Linda Nash, William Dino,
Tim Kelly, Zachary Algarin, Jon Barry, Judy, Lt Brett Duncan,

The meeting began at 5:02 pm with an opportunity for public comment which yielded none.

Mr. Soderberg began with reviewing changes of the PSB plan and some more changes he made. He noted that the mezzanine space was increased with a lounge, bunk area, fitness area, and fire pole. He reports revised corners, reduced lobby space, and the addition of 2 toilets. He asks about decon showers in the laundry area. Mr. Catlow says that decon equipment and the extractor dryer are larger and would need more room than the laundry room. Mr. Kelly added that there needs to be a separation between decon laundry and uniform laundry. Per Mr. Kelly, the decon area is also where airpacs and turnout gear are cleaned. This decon takes approximately 6-8 hours before gear is ready for the next use. Princeton firefighters only have 1 set of gear per firefighter so the decon process limits each firefighter's turnaround time. Mr. Catlow noted that the med storage/laundry areas could be switched to shorten the plumbing runs and the holding tank for decon water can be located anywhere. Mr. Kelly reports that the decon area should be away from living spaces to reduce contamination and med storage should be open to the clean side of the building. Mr. Kelly would also like to see the door from the med room open into the vestibule vs the apparatus bay. He also recommends that uniform laundry machines be available in the living quarters. He continued that in a public safety building, there needs to be a separation between clean and dirty areas for cancer prevention as many of the chemicals firefighters are exposed to are known to be carcinogenic. One additional note Mr. Kelly made was to keep the door from the lobby by the fire chief's office to the apparatus bay otherwise the distance from the kitchen to the apparatus bay would take extra time. He also mentioned that he is skeptical that plans for future build of the mezzanine areas will be completed as funding typically doesn't happen.

Per Mr. Kelly, having a gym on site gets firefighters on location which has helped previously in emergencies. He feels that the PSB committee needs to educate the town on this. Mr. Zimmatore doesn't feel that is the charge of the PSB committee. Mr. Soderberg says that the fitness room has a negative image and the PSB is stuck in the middle for cutting costs and keeping the important parts of the PSB design. Mr. Catlow says that the 2200 sq ft in the mezzanine can be called chief's discretionary space vs planned space d/t ADA issues. Mr. Soderberg would like to tell C&B to cost out the space as a shell with insulation and adding a minisplit to make an avenue for funding for this space.

Mr. Kelly reports that there is a \$530M for PSBs in the MA governor's bond bill. Mr. Catlow says there is no wall from the mezzanine to the apparatus bay and asks how that might affect the temperature. Mr. Kelly feels that design could be used to ass vertical props to practice ladder training. He feels a railing could be added to get it up to code and then add more training pieces. Mr. Soderbrg says with the updated roofline, the bunkrooms could have egress windows. Mr Gott asked if the EOC could be used as a ready room when not used as an EOC. Mr. Soderberg thought that would work and could replace the annex space and may help sell the plan to some voters. Mr. Kelly agrees that a multipurpose room would be a good use and to consider a sliding wall from the EOC into the kitchen. Mr. Soderberg says a door could be placed from the kitchen to the EOC which could also be secured.

Covered parking was discussed and Mr. Soderberg says it would be on the side of the building depending on the site plan and site space limitations. Mr. Kelly says that the Devens PSB has that and it works for LEAD certification. Mr. Soderberg says the gen set would be at the back of the building in the updated design. Mr. Zimmatore would like to see fewer corners in the design to reduce costs. Mr. Soderberg noted that some are not negotiable due to the ridgeline, back wing, front wing. He updated the design to balance cost and aesthetics. Evidence storage was brought up by Mr. Catlow. Mr. Thebeau reports that evidence must be held until a case is closed. Mr. Gott asks if an upstairs room could be used to hold evidence and if an elevator might cost less than a bigger footprint. Mr. Soderberg indicates that a bigger first floor is cheaper than an elevator. Mr. Gott asked about removing one cell. Mr. Kelly says that one female and one male cell are each required. Mr. Crowley asks about a storage building for hoses and cones. Mr. Catlow says adding 6-8 feet to the footprint would allow room for the laundry and that students from the Monty Tech program could work on finishing the mezzanine. Mr. Soderberg noted that in Farmington, able bodied first responders used a mezzanine for the 2nd floor bunk and storage areas and that a future retrofit solution should be considered. Mr. Bennett says that the gym equipment was bought with a grant specifically for first responders. Mr. Catlow asks if a first responder is injured, how would that person access the mezzanine? Would an accommodation be needed like a stair lift? Mr. Thebeau says the building needs more than 1 toilet in the locker room. Mr. Catlow says that if 6-8 feet are added to the foot print, laundry and toilets could be added and he will verify the code minimum of urinals/toilets. Mr. Kelly says there are 6 females on the Fire Department and to consider that with the toilets. Mr. Thebeau says that police reform requirements are often changing and more storage room would be helpful. Mr. Zimmatore asks about digitizing files as he is also on the IT committee. Mr. Gott asks about room for the server and access to it. Mr. Soderberg feels that C&B would know what is needed. Mr. Kelly says that in Devens, the FD and PD has one closet for the FD and State police servers. Mr. Dino says that the med storage room needs a full sized refrigerator and Mr. Thebeau says a dorm sized fridge is needed for sexual assault kits. Mr. Kelly says that rack storage for O2 tanks is allowed. Mr. Zimmatore reports that survey results are starting to come in but he hasn't had time to review them yet. He has started a spreadsheet for analyzing and tabulating.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Attachment: Soberberg updated floorplan