

Summary of Feb 2024 Debrief with Barre Police Chief James Sabourin

The Selectboard asked the Police and Fire Chiefs to each identify an individual to review the building plans to look for areas where we included things they didn't feel were necessary and to identify areas where they felt the plans were missing important items. Chief Patriarca asked Barre's Chief to look at the Police side of things.

Background:

- He has been with department for many years
- Deputy chief when station built
- Chief now little over 2 years
- Station built with EMS for a little over 3 million using 3 million Steven Brewer earmark
- Jacunski Humes architects

Holding Cells:

- Barre has 1 extra large cell (handicap accessible)
- Never puts more than 1 person in the cell
- Don't hold prisoners overnight – healthy males go to Worcester county, health females to Chicopee, Juveniles and other go to hospital or released

Plan Deficiencies:

- Nowhere near enough storage (can never have too much, amazing how much stuff police need to keep handy)
- No dedicated I/T room (temperature controlled)
- Locker rooms – prefers to have gender neutral police locker room, gender neutral fire/ems locker room, gender neutral set of changing room/shower areas. His point is that you don't want someone to casually leave their locker unlocked when they head off to the shower and leave their gun belt hanging there. Yes, you could require lockers to always be locked unless you are in front of it but problem avoided by doing it Barre's way. Note: Paul prefers this as well for stated reason but also for clear definition of responsibility: Police have messing locker area vs someone left locker area messy. Note: they used to have 10 FT and 10 PF and 20 lockers. They have lost PT so have too many lockers. Note: increases morale and recruitment when you look into well organized and clean locker area as opposed to what we have now. Another locker thing- make sure lockers are ventilated so boots dry out between shifts. Barre's lockers are floor to ceiling. Amazing how much stuff with summer and winter, vests, helmets, etc.

- Seems inefficient / odd to have 2 admin areas facing lobby when fire/ems often not staffed. Also, why have first thing you see when entering be empty fire admin window.
- Seems like dedicating so much heated space to large evidence storage is inefficient. Put another vehicle in there and have a chain link fenced area for large evidence.
- Barre has an evidence-processing room where all the clutter that is involved is in its own area. Good room for things like evidence camera.

Other notes:

- Barre has a slab and it may not be adequately insulated but it has caused problems
- Barre has all mini splits and \$35k/year electric bill. Seems pretty high. Considering adding solar on roof and maybe over vehicles.
- Maximize ethernet and electric outlets. You would be amazed at how many things need to be charged. They retrofitted a wall inside locker room to keep docking station for tasers. We will want to also consider body camera docking station and two-way radio charging rack.
- Make sure lockers have enough space and power outlets to charge phones, radios, flashlights.
- Recommend “full” kitchen (not just MW, sink, fridge). Ability to do things like make a tuna melt increases morale quite a bit at little cost (note from Dave Cruise – careful that BOH doesn’t insist on professional kitchen like at COA)
- Adding TV to kitchen increases morale – yes, should be working but if snowing and they shouldn’t be on the roads patrolling, might be nice.
- Gym is big for morale as well. Pay attention to morale for retention and recruitment.
- Recommend mushroom switch in booking and interview rooms to start recording. Mushroom lights up to indicate recording. Outside areas, red light goes on to indicate recording.
- Make sure EOC/Training room has built in AV for virtual meeting attendance.
- Should include wash bay for vehicles with drains, water-tolerant wall materials, and hot/cold water.