

Municipal Facility Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 22, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ronald Cormier called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Also present were Police Chief Vincent Baiocchetti, Ron Mitchell, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Pleasant Oberhausen, George Condodemetraky, Rich Fournier, Brian Waterson and Melanie Nelson of the Citizen.

Ron Cormier asked that the committee make a decision on which building should be done first, the Police Department or the Town Offices. Ron C. proposed that the PD be the first project. He stated that getting the PD out of the village would increase safety, access and confidentiality. By moving the PD it would free up the current PD building for Town Office space. Ron Mitchell agreed that moving the PD from the village would be the most beneficial. Pleasant O. questioned the committee why the PD should be moved out of the village. He stated that it would be much less costly to just put an addition on the present building.

Concerns of the cost of building a new PD and purchasing a property were discussed. Concerns of the condition of the current Town Office's building and how a structural crisis could arise down the road were discussed. Members of the committee also questioned if moving the Town Offices off Main St would make it more difficult for the public to locate and access the offices.

Rich Fournier proposed that the voters be given the option of choosing to add an addition to current PD or relocating PD. Rich encouraged the committee to seriously look at an addition to the current PD being the solution. Rich spoke with an engineer regarding the addition to the PD and the engineer did not suggest putting on a second floor, but instead suggested building out from the building.

George C. questioned what land purchase options the Town had in mind for the new PD. Ron C. stated that he did not feel the committee was at that point of looking at land when they hadn't officially decided that building a new PD was what they wanted to go with first. Ron C. stated that land with town sewer and water would be less costly to develop.

Brian Waterson addressed the committee suggesting that the committee vote when decisions need to be made instead of having only discussion. He stated that if the committee votes on something they can work together and it can move forward, ideally having a decision and proposal for budget season; a timeline for the project was stressed by Brian.

George updated the committee on his discussion with Gloria Paradise of NHCDFA in regards to the grant that the Mill is currently under. He did not receive an answer but is expecting a call back regarding the possibility of using the Mill as Town Offices before

the grant is up. Rich F. stated he had concerns about the childcare facility that is currently housed in the Mill as part of a grant stipulation. Rich does not agree that the grant states that the town must house a private childcare facility. TA Jeanne Beaudin pointed out that the rent meets the grant criteria.

George C. requested that information on the Mill possibility be known before he makes a decision on doing the PD or Town Offices first. Rich and George both stated that they would like site information and options before making a decision on what is done first. Ron C. raised concerns of researching sites if decision to build hasn't been made. He reminded the committee that the PD needs to be suited to serve the town for the next 20-30 years, and that if it stays where it is with the addition there will be another crisis not long down the road. Police Chief Vincent Baiocchetti shared concerns that the PD is going to be unsuited to serve the town at the rate it is growing. Vinnie presented to the committee the proposed plan for the Meredith Police Department, which went to bond this past March and is currently being built. The committee reviewed the plans.

In Vinnie's opinion, the first choice for the new location of the PD would be on Route 106 in the Higgins Road. The benefits of this location are access to the main road, no intersection, it is within 2 miles of the center of town, there is Town water and sewer, and it would take the PD out of the center of the village. His second choice of location would be North of the lights on Route 106. He has no specific lots in mind but is aware that there are available lot options in that area. The areas that he would prefer the PD not be located are as follows:

- Fire Station property – Concerns of access in and out due to intersection.

- Gilmanton Road – Currently there is very congested traffic and it is increasing, this could be a potential hazard for the PD.

- Church property – Concerns of wetlands and traffic by lights at 106.

- Mill building – Same issues as now when it comes to being crammed into downtown and having to maneuver main street to respond to a call.

Ron M. question why Route 140 hasn't been considered. Vinnie shared that they don't receive many calls over there and that there is more activity on Route 106.

Pleasant O. questioned how much acreage the PD would want. Vinnie stated that it depends on what the Town would want to build in the future.

There was discussion regarding using an architect that was not part of a firm, or using one company for all facets of the job. Rich encouraged using an outside architect.

Ron M. stated that he feels that the committee has come to a consensus that the PD needs to be done first, depending on the answer from the Mill grant. It was suggested that the committee look at sites at the next meeting and discuss possible plans for the sites. Jeanne will provide the site and listing information for review.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.**