

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)
POLICE DEPARTMENT TOUR
April 25, 2013, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

ATTENDING: Murray Campbell, Steve Favorite, Joe Lukeman, Dan Paradis, Betsy Schneider, Janet Cote, Chief Michael Lewis.

Chief Lewis stated that countless studies have been done by the Space Needs committee and the Police Station has always been number 1 yet many other building projects have been done. The Chief is concerned as Concord has been failing us for quite a few years, especially where juvenile issues and a sally port is concerned. He went on to say that the town owns land that can be used. Several years ago, we paid for a plan for this lot in which a building could be erected behind this one and also increase parking. Mark Bucklin could use the fill for his project at the Transfer Station. Every time an adjustment has been made to this building, it has been done with the architect's drawing in mind. Mr. Paradis asked what the Chief feels is the ideal situation, to adjust this building for the Police or for a separate building. The Chief felt that we have paid \$50,000 to \$60,000 for a plan for this building to be the Police Station and he does not see that we should waste that money.

Mr. Campbell asked about the inspection by Concord. The Chief stated that it is a yearly, unannounced, inspection every year and we have failed for some time. Mr. Campbell asked if they consider the whole town and what the town can afford. This is not done, it was felt. Mr. Campbell then explained the CIP process for the benefit of the two new Selectpersons, Ms. Schneider and Ms. Cote. He added that the CIP is determined by the Selectmen and Budget Committee in December and the Police were removed from the program. He then gave the Chief a news article that described a seminar of architects that come, similar to the Charrette that the Planning Board had. The Chief emphasized that we have a plan, just no decisions have been made. Ms. Schneider added that sometimes outsiders do not look at what the town can afford. Again, the Chief stated that they need a sally port and that the town needs to make a decision. All the Police need are 4 walls to make this building useable. Mr. Paradis explained that the Planning Board is looking into a new chapter on Town Facilities for the Master Plan. It would give us something to start from.

Ms. Cote felt that we need prioritization. If she had known of these needs, she would not have voted for the library. We need a public forum to get the word out to the public. Ms. Schneider agreed. The Chief stated that we could do \$365,000 over 20 years for this building instead of a \$3million facility. Mr. Campbell asked if they could push two wings out in front and keep both the Police and Town Office. Chief Lewis answered that the architect of 2006 did not like that idea due to roof tie-ins. Everyone agreed that we need education and communication with the public.

Mr. Favorite stated that, back then, they went all over looking at various municipalities and Hopkinton seemed the best and they had converted an old dentist building. Mr. Lukeman stated that he has been in Bristol for 12 years and has had no sense of communication. He feels that we should put on the web site that we have a problem. We should use a marketing approach saying that we have some

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deficiencies as noted by Concord and then list the deficiencies. The Chief felt that the town may be ready for the information of the need at this time. Mr. Lukeman added that they need to show the \$3 million vs. the \$365,000. Mr. Paradis felt that we may have lessons learned with the Library, it took them 3 years to get the public to agree. Ms. Cote felt that it was public relations as much as anything. Ms. Schneider asked the Chief if they could have a list of the deficiencies. Chief Lewis stated that he cannot give Concord's report as it includes some juvenile information but he can give her a copy of the insurance company report which lists them. He added that the insurance rates keep growing and, when asked about this, he answered that we keep changing insurance companies.

Chief Lewis stated that we also have a problem with the process of evidence control. We have no place to keep it anymore. It is costing \$12,000 - \$13,000 a year to rent space and we had to supply the video camera for security. The camera is \$45.00 a day per auto. We have a canoe with no place to store it as well. A sally port could hold autos and canoes, etc.

Chief Lewis also mentioned that there are safety issues for the Town Office as well. He feels that it is cheaper to build office space, including safety issues, than a Police Station. This building could last the Police 40-50 years, he feels. He mentioned that it would have been \$22,000 to lease the TD bank for the town offices but then they felt that there could be some conflicts due to the bank holding our funds and with the new downtown project.

The new cruiser was ordered but not until after the town meeting and Ford has a back-up so it is not to arrive until May 25th and then will be outfitted. Chief Lewis explained that he usually orders in Nov. but held off due to the downturn in the economy. Ms. Schneider asked what he would do if he ordered in Nov. and the town did not vote to replace a cruiser. The Chief answered that they notify the supplier who can always sell it to some other town. He explained that they get State bid for their cars. He has opted to swap the next car in line instead of the SUV due to the mileage. Now, the cars have one chassis with either a sedan or utility body put on. These are both at the same price. As the sedan is very small, he will go for the utility body now.

Mr. Campbell asked about mileage and if there are any problems that he is aware of. Chief Lewis mentioned that radio communication is an issue with the cell tower and radios on belts and in cruisers. Hemphill is used for the Fire Dept. not the Police. He feels that, if we got a cell tower, we could earn money by being a dispatch center for surrounding towns. He added that they no longer make parts for the radios that we have. They got the last on a grant but they were at a special price. For us, it would cost \$5600 a unit. He got 6 on a 100% grant but that is no longer available. Chief Lewis also mentioned that we interfere with Franklin's communication as we cannot hear them when they are on the frequency.

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Mr. Campbell asked about detail information request or if we house for anyone else. The Chief stated that other towns (Danbury and Hill) can come in but they handle everything. We get a discount on cleaning of our uniforms by letting other towns bring their uniforms in here to be picked up. We also have a State in-tox machine so have to allow other towns to use it. State taxes pay for it and it saves us from having to transport elsewhere for this. Mr. Campbell asked about revenue from special details. Chief Lewis stated that they get \$65.00 an hour (the office gets \$41). Mr. Campbell asked about storage of narcotics and was told that ours is not adequate. He added that we get revenue from pistol permits, report requests and any crimes outside of our jurisdiction in which we take a part, such as DWI, juvenile issues, summons that are town ordinances or State summons.

With no other issues to discuss, Chief Lewis took the group on a tour of the Department where they could see the needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Laferriere, recording secretary