



TOWN OF MENDON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

20 Main Street

Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

Telephone: (508) 473-2312 Fax: (508) 478-8241

MEETING MINUTESAPRIL 5, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Dale Pleau, attended by Selectmen Dennis Shaheen, Ken O'Brien, and Administrative Assistant Margaret Tetreault

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by the Chairman Dale Pleau.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the 10% design plan for the new police station. The meeting was turned over to the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Mike Peterson. Mike introduced the following: Steve Phillips, architect for Maguire Group,

Public Safety Com members:

Don Blanchette, Mendon Police Sgt.

Richard Corcoran, Mendon Fire Lt.

Ernie Horn, Police Chief

Joe Cronin

Alan Tetreault, Highway Surveyor

Public Safety Com members Joe Scott and Russ Kempton were not present.

The plan for the new police station also includes providing the septic system for the whole town hall campus. The plan calls for a 9300sq. ft. building. Perc tests were done early this week and passed. An on-site system will be less expensive than tying into and expanding the school septic system at the Highway barn. Dennis Shaheen commented that any septic system should be designed for future use of all buildings on the Town Hall campus.

The utility pole in the middle of the parking lot will have to be moved across the street, but it can be accomplished by removing a limb from the tree, not removing the whole tree.

Cost of this plan is approx. \$2.7 million. This is early in the design so exact figures are not available; Public Safety Com is looking for all economies without compromising the quality of the building or shortening its useful life.

Chief Horn explained some of the reasons a new station is needed:

Cells are not in compliance with state standards; we have a waiver from the Dept. of Public Safety until 7/1/04.

Current building is not handicap accessible.

Lockers for the officers are in the trailer parked at the side of the station

There is no confidential area for the Chief to interview people.

Mike Peterson acknowledged that much love, toil, sweat and tears went into the current building and we have gotten every penny out of the building. If the building were kept for another use, any remodeling would trigger the code enforcement.

Mike Peterson stated that the Public Safety Com. will be meeting with the Finance Com, the Planning Bd. and will have an open public meeting to present the plans and answer questions from the public.

Dale Pleau and Mike Peterson both emphasize that financing the new station will be subject to debt exclusion question. A debt exclusion is a form of 2 ½ override, but with a debt exclusion, when the debt is paid off, the increased tax goes away. A general override stays in the tax base forever or until an underride is passed.

Ballot Question

Dennis Shaheen moved that a debt exclusion question be placed on the Annual Town Election ballot; worded as follows: Shall The Town of Mendon be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to construct and originally equip a new police station, provide a septic system for the town hall complex, remove the current police station and make other necessary site modifications in the area from the back of the town hall to the rear property line? Ken O'Brien 2nd; all in favor.

The ballot question is being put to the voters *before* a town meeting vote to approve building the new station so that the Town does not have to incur the expense of a special election.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Tetreault
Administrative Assistant