

# MINUTES

Of the July 30, 2009 meeting of the Tuftonboro Public Safety Facilities Committee. Note that this meeting was a PUBLIC PRESENTATION, at the Tuftonboro Central School, 7:00 PM. The meeting had been advertised by articles in the “Granite State News”, “Tuftonboro Times”, the sign in front of the School, on the Town Website, and by signs posted liberally throughout public places in the town, in addition to the required legal posting of the meeting at the Town Hall and the Melvin Village Post Office.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Lapolla.

Present: Members Eaton, Evans, Frago, Knapp, Lapolla and Young

Absent: None

Also present: Approximately 50-55 members of the public, plus Selectmen Duffy, Stockman, and Sundquist

The minutes of the previous meeting were moved, seconded, and approved.

Each attendee was given an outline of the presentation, and an informal ballot to indicate their preferences for options, locations and comments. The ballots were collected at the close of the meeting.

Chairman Lapolla welcomed everyone, and introduced the members of the Committee.

Lane Evans described the purpose of the Committee, its history and the work it had done. The Committee has been meeting for over 16 months, and has met repeatedly with the Fire and Police Chiefs, toured facilities in Tuftonboro and in other towns, and met several times with the Selectmen. Tom Young, using the illustrations displayed in the front of the room, emphasized that these are concepts only, and described the different options shown: A stand-alone Fire Dept., a combined Police and Fire Dept., an expansion of the existing Police Dept. He also mentioned that a stand-alone Police Dept. was an option that had not been drawn or developed, due to uncertainty about the status of the present Library Building. The Committee had considered “doing nothing” as an option, but even doing nothing has a cost, as the existing facilities must be upgraded to be safe and functional. The Committee had decided that this was not a responsible option. The committee feels that the concepts shown are frugal to build and operate, and will meet the needs of the Town for the next 10-15 years at a reasonable cost. It was also emphasized that all options include leaving the existing Fire Dept. stations in use. The Committee also provided cost estimates, obtained from local builders, of \$1.3 to \$1.5 million for a stand-alone Fire Dept., \$1.5 to \$1.7 for a combined facility, and \$400,000 to expand the present Police Dept. These estimates include building, groundwork, septic, well, landscaping, security, etc., but not outfitting the building with desks or other furniture or equipment.

Richard Knapp commented further on the buildings and options, and then opened the meeting for questions or discussion. A member of the audience noted that, even though local builders may have an advantage, it would be required that any building go out to bid.

Fire Chief Thompson noted that the Stand-Alone Fire Station is fine, but that the combined facility, in the same size building, will be cramped from day one. The Chief took questions from the audience.

Police Chief Shagoury thanked the Committee for its work. He noted that the combined building is the most common approach, and offers savings from common use of certain facilities in the building (generator, meeting room, etc.). He also reminded everyone that any new or substantially-changed building must be ADA compliant. He is very concerned about how the Police Dept. would be able to function while its building is being expanded if that option is chosen.

From the audience: Richard Cary introduced himself as a retired architect, and discussed the importance of space for future growth. He also discussed the costs of combined vs. separate facilities.

Further discussion from the audience included noting that the Town Offices will need more space, and moving the Police Dept. would provide this. Also, that the Town has 4 major building needs to consider: Town, Police, Fire, and Library, and that the needs, costs and timing of each should be determined so the Town can proceed with an overall plan. The Committee agreed, but noted that it was chartered to study only the Police and Fire Departments. The Town Selectmen will make the final determination of how to proceed and what to place before the voters for all 4 areas.

The audience was invited to view the concepts displayed more closely at their leisure.

The next Committee meeting, to review the results and start preparation of its final report to the Selectmen, will be Thurs., Aug. 20, 2009. (This was later changed to Wed., Aug 19, 2009, at 7:00 PM at the Old Town House)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Young  
Committee Secretary