

April 30, 2022

To the Select Board

I'm writing this letter in response to the question about 'where to begin' in the decision making process for a new fire and/or public works building.

One thought is to use a framework or process that is widely used for things such as Environmental Impact Statements.

The framework would consist of the major steps, requiring public input in both.

The first step would be the development and comparison of the TYPE of building or buildings required and the LOCATION. Once the parameters of the building or buildings have been established by the fire and public works staff, a workshop would be held to develop a list of locations and types, resulting in a matrix like that below.

Comparison 1: Types of buildings and locations

TYPES of BUILDINGS (examples)

LOCATIONS (examples)				
	50,000 sf fire station (stand alone)	100,000 sf combined PW/Fire	50,000 sf public works (stand alone)	etc.
In village center on Town land				
Location 1 outside center				
Location 2 outside center				
etc.				

Once the list of locations and building types is completed, it could be filled in with those combinations of locations and types that are possible given site constraints. For example, Location 1 might be sufficient for a stand-alone building but not a combined facility. The possible location/type 'alternatives' would feed into the next step.

The second step would be to evaluate the alternatives from the first comparison. A second workshop would facilitate development of the evaluation criteria. These might include access for emergency vehicles, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, ability to support long term needs, and cost. An example matrix is shown below. It is important to include the 'do nothing' alternative so that the repercussions of not constructing either facility are understood.

The matrix can be used as a tool to help in comparing the alternatives and can be filled out with symbols such as +/-, rankings such as 1-5, or simply words.

Comparison 2: Alternatives Analysis

	ALTERNATIVES			
CRITERIA	50,000 fire station next to Mallett Hall	Combined 100,000 PW/Fire Station on XXX property	50,000 sf PW building on xxx property	Do nothing
Ease of access, EMS				
Consistency with Comprehensive Plan				
Ability to meet long term needs				
Cost				
etc.				

I will be attending the workshop on May 2. Thank you for your consideration and for all that you do.

Marcia Bowen

115 Royal Rd.