

Workshop Notes
May 2, 2022

A workshop was held to discuss and determine the next steps on the Public Safety and Public Works buildings. The Select Board, Fire Chief, Road Commissioner, Town Administrator and many residents were in attendance.

- Chair Jon Morris noted he has a meeting with New Gloucester and Durham to get ideas on how they got started.
- The Fire Chief and Road Commissioner supplied lists of deficiencies in each of their buildings which were read. Bo Chesney and Marcia Bowen also sent emails to the Select Board with thoughts and those were read. The question was posed “where do we go from here?”
- Marcia Bowen noted along with her email that we should include a “do nothing alternative”
- Chair Morris suggested we set up a committee.
- Susan Briggs Peters: Jesse has talked to other towns that have built fire stations. Is it too early? Concerns about public involvement. We need to be thinking about per diem workers. This may be a need in the future.
- Paul Schumann: We should be brainstorming all discussions. Building a new facility(s) change how we operation. Costs can/will change. There could be subcommittees working on layers. Build a framework/matrix.
- Chair Morris: biggest fear is to build a bigger facility and have no staff. Staffing needs to be evaluation for the next 20 years. So again, how do we proceed? We need to brainstorm. How do we inventory land in Pownal? Selectperson Andy O’Brien suggested we assign a committee to explore land.
- Dick Hogue: Thought we might need 2 committees; one to look at deficiencies and one to look at land.
- Pat Fairbanks: The lists provided are well defined deficiencies which is a good first step. Form a committee to break each deficiency down and determine how to rectify. This can help to determine the size of the building and the land needed.
- Bo Chesney: He agreed with 2 committees and suggested one focus on the Fire Department and the other on Public Works. Can have one person serve on 2 as a liaison. If there is overlap in needs is there an advantage to creating a combined facility. May not be on town land.
- Chair Morris asked in the absence of a professional planner how do we determine growth and need. Ms. Bowen stated GPCOG does growth projections.
- Mr. Chesney stated it’s easy to get overwhelmed by the challenge. WE do need to plan for expansion.
- Mr. Schumann asked how do we get a reasonable idea of what we will look like in 20 years. Chair Morris felt the Select Board may need to work on this piece.
- Mrs. Peters suggested looking or grants now. Reach out to find people to help with this. Mr. Schumann agreed felt it should be part of the beginning process. Impact fees were suggested but without an ordinance change cannot be used at this point.
- Ms. Bowen asked if the Fired Department and Public Works define the needs to solve the deficiencies and have one more workshop to form a committee.

- Selectperson O'Brien said while the discussion was going on he made a list of people he felt should serve on the committee: Bo Chesney, Dick Hogue, Marcia Bowen, Jesse Peters, Matt Nielsen, Paul Giddinge, Pat Fairbanks, Paul Schumann, Pat Christian.
- Selectperson Curry noted it's hard to wrap her head around this project without knowing what the long-term goals for the town are. We need consider this when planning. Will we need police protection in the future?
- Mr. Schumann felt we needed future Pownal residents to help pay for these needs. He asked about Planning Software.
- Chair Morris will reach out to MMA to get the guidelines on a charge, oaths, officers etc. A rough charge was verbalized: "conceptionalize a facility based on deficiencies of present to include deficiencies of the future or future needs".
- Mr. Chesney felt conceptionalize and map out were good terms to use. We need to get the work out to the town about grant writing. The Town Administrator will put that in the monthly email and June town mailer.
- Mr. Schumann asked if we could set up a spot on the website for document sharing.
- Mr. Chesney also suggested when speaking to other towns about their process we should ask about the mistakes they made. This will be good to help us consider and troubleshoot items we may not have thought of.

The next meeting was set for Monday, May 9 at 5:30 pm. The focus of this meeting is determine a regular schedule for future meetings.