

Police HQ - Town Campus Facility
Building Committee



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**POLICE HQ – TOWN CAMPUS FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING- ELECTRONIC MEETING (ZOOM)
30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND APPROVAL AT
A FUTURE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman David Waters called the meeting of the Police HQ-Town Campus Facility Building Committee (Committee) to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Committee Members Co-Chairman Patricia Temple, Kathleen Poirier, Matthew Bezanson, and John Suchy. Absent were David Johnson and Keith Fordsman. In addition, Chief John Lynch, Captain Robert Cipolla, Captain Thomas Conlon of the Wilton Police Department and Mr. Christopher Burney, Director of Public Works and Facilities were in attendance.

At the outset, Mr. Burney asked to address an issue before we went through the agenda- he recommended that when committee members use the town email addresses assigned to them, that any email correspondence to all committee members also include Police Chief Lynch and himself.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Co-Chairman Temple made a motion to accept the January 8, 2020 minutes as presented and Ms. Poirier seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

TOWN HALL AND ANNEX CAMPUS- CHRISTOPHER BURNEY

“Covid-19 changed the world”, Mr. Burney rightfully asserted as he gave the committee an update on the protocols that the town adopted relating to office spaces, access controls,

and health/cleaning processes. He noted that since we last met, the roof has been replaced at the town hall.

WestCOG-CAPTAIN THOMAS CONLON

The captain reminded the committee that the towns in this working group include Wilton, Weston, Ridgefield, Redding, and New Canaan. He reports that the group released a report back in June 2021 on the feasibility of shared or regional facilities /duties among the towns, recommending that those areas include police firing ranges and training facilities. He indicated that there was no meaningful interest in a regional dispatch at this time. He committed to providing a copy of the report to the committee for its review.

WILTON POLICE BUILDING-CHRISTOPHER BURNEY

Mr. Burney confirmed what many already knew- that the economic effects of the pandemic include serious supply chain issues, and will likely have an impact on the cost of construction, and that we will have to adjust our construction costs to reflect that reality.

He indicated that he will be leaving his town positions with the DPW and Board of Education, but is in earnest discussions to continue as a project manager for this project and perhaps other(s) in the town.

He indicated that the revised Statement of Requirements (SOR), as amended by the Police Commission, is scheduled to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen(BOS) on October 4, 2021.

During the discussion period, Mr. Bezanson commented that any analysis on material costs should include, aside from the direct Covid-19 impact, what he believes will be projected inflation. As a consensus, committee members would like to the revised SOR if it is reviewed and approved by the BOS. Ms. Poirier suggested that the police department keep an eye out for any grants that might defray the costs to the town relating the police building construction and equipment/hardware. Chief Lynch confirmed that the department does and will continue to explore grant opportunities as they become available.

TIMELINE TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Co-Chairman Waters presented the committee with a tentative but ambitious timeline:

October 4, 2021. BOS Meeting-Review of proposed changes to design, approval of contract for design and cost estimates

October 2021. Public tours of the police building, public information sessions for the public, candidates for BOS and Board of Finance (BOF).

November 2021. Public tours of the police building.

December 2, 2021. Proposed Special Joint Meeting of the newly seated BOS and BOF for presentation of proposed design, cost, and associated bonding requirement(s).

December 2021. Public information sessions.

January 3, 2022. BOS to decide whether to hold a Special Town Meeting and Set a Date

January 10, 2022. Notice of the Special Town Meeting

January 11, 2022. BOF deliberations on any recommendation to the voters.

January 25/29, 2022. Special Town Meeting and Adjourned Vote.

WILTON HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Co-Chairwoman Temple reported that member Keith Fordsman proposed exploring whether there might be an internship opportunity for a senior at the Wilton High School as part of its “senior projects” to be embedded in the project. The general consensus was that this might be worth considering, but that approval needs to come first. It was generally agreed that we would consider this at a later date, but that Mr. Fordsman could further explore this opportunity.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND MEMBER COMMENT

There was no public comment and no further member comment.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next scheduled regular meeting is unknown at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, at 6:50 pm, Co-Chairman Waters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Poirier. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Suchy, Recording Secretary