

**POLICE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2015**

The Police Station Building Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, in the Police Commission Conference Room at the Milford Police Department. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Richard Smith
Samuel Bergami
Philip J. Vetro (BOA)
Anthony Giannattasio (BOA)
John Carissimi
John Mager

Also Present

Chief Keith Mello

Excused

Twig Holland

Chairman Smith tonight's meeting would provide an overview of the charge of this Committee and the direction it would take. He stated he has spoken with the city attorney, Mr. Bergman and the Chief Mello and one of the charges of the Committee would be to determine the need for a new police station.

1) Introduction of Committee Members

Chairman Smith proceeded to ask each member to introduce themselves.

2) Review Needs Assessment of new police station

Chairman Smith explained the charge the Committee is tasked with is to determine the needs of the station, whether it be to building new or remodel. He stated he himself would have to listen to all of the information presented before he is able to make a final decision and that the Committee should be open and do the same. Chairman Smith asked the Chief to speak to the challenges of the department at this point.

Chief Mello spoke of the current design of police departments in general and that space is as important. He continued with a history of a previous needs assessment for the station going back to 1998. Chief Mello also spoke of the technology changes over the years and changes in the juvenile booking statute requiring a separate juvenile booking area. He stated storage is also important. He spoke of the recent combination of fire/police dispatchers. Chief Mello also spoke of the complexities of training officers and holding training classes. He stated the current building does not have adequate interview rooms. He also referenced new laws that require audio/video technology for all interviews. Chief Mello stated the department is also in need of more lockers for their officers, therefore there is the need for a larger locker room. Chief Mello stated the functionality of the building is key to moving forward.

Ald. Vetro asked if the Chief had visited other police departments in adjoining towns/cities.

Chief Mello stated he has visited police stations all over the state since he became chief in 2004.

Chairman Smith stated a tour would be organized for the Committee to visit other departments down the road.

Ald. Vetro asked if the current square footage in this building was adequate.

Chief Mello stated the footprint is just too small.

Attorney Mager asked about the architectural plans. He also asked about the police academy.

Chief Mello stressed the importance of hiring an architect that has experience with public safety buildings. He stated the academy is currently housed at Simon Lake. A brief discussion ensued.

3. Next Steps

Chairman Smith stated the question to the Committee is whether or not to build onto the existing building, purchase property or build a new building. He stated assessments of the current property are being looked at by the city attorney. Chairman Smith suggested the proposed architectural firm attend the next Committee meeting. Discussion ensued.

Chief Mello stated the department should be located centrally, but that does not mean they have to be on the Boston Post Road. He spoke of discussions over the last 10 years with the three previous mayors. Discussion resumed.

Chairman Smith stated obtaining cost estimates and data would help the Committee. He spoke of the costs of architectural engineering.

Mr. Carissimi asked where the money would come from.

Chairman Smith explained the City would go out for bond approval through the Board of Aldermen. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Carissimi asked the role of the architect.

Chief Mello stated the architect has provided a needs assessment as well as providing data.

Chairman Smith stated the Committee would put out an RFQ and from there this Committee would select the architect. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Carissimi asked about the antenna tower.

Chief Mello stated if they remain close to the tower, it could remain.

Ald Vetro commented tower would be something else for the Committee to consider when making their decision.

Chairman Smith stated the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 6:49 p.m. at which time the Committee members take a tour of the building led by Chief Mello.

Respectively submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary