

MINUTES OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

February 23, 2018 – 4:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
 Councilor Nancie Cameron
 Councilor Edward Levasseur

Staff Present: Bob Belmore City Manager
 Fire Chief Keith Hoyle
 Kelly Gagne Deputy City Clerk

Others present:

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore passed out a memo regarding portable radios for the Fire Department. He stated that after consultation with Chief Hoyle, he was not going to propose funding more replacement radios for the Fire Department in the next fiscal year's budget. All full time firefighters have received new radios. Fire Chief Hoyle said in the memo that delaying one year will not be detrimental to the department. No questions from Councilors.

FIRE STATION – SITE & FACILITY

Manager Belmore handed out 2 points of info; a mockup of a potential new fire station and an aerial view map that were provided by Councilor Witham, who at the last City Council Meeting suggested a downtown fire station as a possibility for the new station. Witham had provided info on the site of old Bank of America. Belmore stated it is for sale with a realtor, the City has it assessed at \$400,000, round figure; it is 7,325 sq. ft., built in 1968 & is located on .25 acres of land and the current asking price is \$315,900.

Manager Belmore suggested that the City could consider replacing the expiring bond that was issued for the new Police station with one for a new Fire station project. Presently we have kept this new Fire project in the CIP, right now it is in FY2022, with \$172,000 estimated for design and engineering work. Based on what Fire Chief Hoyle researched in comparing a new station with a one similar to the Dover Fire Liberty Station, we were using \$3.5M for CIP in FY2023.

Fire Chief Hoyle stated that he is preparing a color-coded map which will show the response areas of the last 2 years' service calls. He will also see if he can get response times as well.

Councilor Pepin stated that the former Fire Station Advisory Committee did look at different sites. Most of the Committee believed that the current location to rebuild is a good central City location. He doesn't like the idea of it being downtown because of traffic issues which could possibly delay response times. Councilor Cameron likes it where it is now because it is centrally located. Councilor Levasseur likes Councilor Witham's idea of having a downtown station or possibly a substation would be good. Chief Hoyle stated that staffing would be an issue if we were to plan for a Fire substation.

Councilor Pepin suggested that another possible downtown area would be Profile Garage area on Green St, other than the Bank of America building.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons on potential new sites for the Fire department and also regarding the current site. Councilor Pepin asked Manager Belmore to get some info from Police Chief Kretschmar regarding when the Police station moved from downtown to Blackwater Rd, did that affect response times.

A date was set for the next meeting Wednesday, March 21st @ 4:30.

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion to adjourn at 5:05pm. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk