

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING STUDY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting July 29, 2014

Williamstown Town Hall, Selectman's Room

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM

### **Attendance:**

Charles Fox  
Andy Hogeland  
Scott McGowan  
John Notsley  
Jane Patton, Chair

Andy Hogeland moved, Scott McGowan seconded, to accept the minutes for the April 1, 2014 PSBSC meeting.

Jane Patton provided the committee with an update regarding the on-going negotiations with the Lehovec Estate. Ms. Patton informed the committee the process was at a standstill as an agreement has not been achieved. Ms. Patton reported the Lehovec Estate was requiring the Town to pay a fee to access the property. Additionally, the Estate required the property be returned to pre-testing conditions at the conclusion of the tests. Furthermore, the Lehovec Estate required if the geotechnical evaluation was positive, a purchase and sales agreement must be signed. Ms. Patton informed the Lehovec Estate that was outside the authority of the PSBSC.

Andy Hogeland expressed his unwillingness to wait any further regarding examining sites. Mr. Hogeland suggested reconstructing the RFP for a land study meant for either a Police Station only or a combination Police / Fire building. The RFP process will be discussed with the Board of Selectman.

Ms. Patton will follow-up with Town Manager Peter Fohlin regarding the new RFP while sending a letter to the Lehovec Estate Attorney informing them of the committee's intentions.

With the exception of Mr. Fox, all members expressed their disappointment regarding the stalled negotiations with the Lehovec Estate and as a result, the lost time from the April 1, 2014 meeting until the present date where no progress was made. Mr. Fox indicated this delay may be beneficial as Williamstown continues moving forward with plans for either renovations or new construction of Mt. Greylock Regional High School. Mr. McGowan again highlighted the dangerous working conditions of the current Police Station and recalled a recent incident where third shift officers were required to escort an intoxicated and non-cooperative arrestee to the basement holding cells.

During new business, Mr. McGowan addressed comments made by Dr. Erwin Stuebner, President of the Board of Directors of Village Ambulance Service at a April 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectman. During the April B.O.S. meeting, Dr. Stuebner indicated he was dismayed the ambulance's needs were not being considered regarding their participation in constructing a new building. Mr. McGowan reminded the committee a member of Village Ambulance Service had been appointed by the B.O.S. in July of 2013 to represent the interests of the ambulance. With regards to a joint facility, Mr. McGowan reminded the committee that at this time, there appears to be only one property that could accommodate a joint building (Lehovec property) and Reinhardt Associates who conducted the preliminary studies stated this would only be large enough for the Police and Fire Departments. Finally, Mr. McGowan asked a rhetorical question as to how Village Ambulance planned to pay for any studies that would include new quarters for the ambulance. Mr. McGowan informed the committee the tax payers of Williamstown have already spent approximately \$75,000 in Fire District monies to conduct studies while approving approximately \$300,000 at the 2012 & 2013 annual town meeting for land / building studies.

Mr. Fox moved, Mr. Notsley seconded, the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Scott E. McGowan