

WALPOLE POLICE BUILDING COMMITTEE
February 20, 2024
Minutes

Steve Dalessio called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm. Present were Rod Bouchard, Andrew Dey, Peggy Pschirrer, Cheri Watson (by zoom) and David Adams (by zoom). Absent were Trevor MacLachlan, Jay Punt and Chief Justin Sanctuary. Ray Boas was present as a member of the public and Editor of the CLARION.

Rod Bouchard moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrew Dey and approved by the members present.

Mr. Dalessio announced that Mr. Petrovick would be visiting the Police Station February 29, 2024. He reminded the committee of the Warrant to buy land to be voted on at Town Meeting. It was agreed that the property would need a survey, soil borings and consideration of storm drains.

Mr. Dalessio introduced the topic for the meeting: Why do we need a Police Station? Mr. Dalessio presented a handout of major reasons why we need a new station. The major reasons are as follows:

1. Protection of our Police Officers
2. To Provide an adequate work environment for our officers
3. To have an efficient and safe workspace

Pictures of the current police station illustrate each major talking point.

A graph of the kind and numbers of calls the police make monthly was included in the handout. The Committee asked for more explanation of the numbers. Where are the calls coming from? How many are mutual aid calls. How many drug deaths are there monthly and or how many near deaths. How many suicide or potential suicide calls are there?

Why do we need to protect Police officers? The station has been breached by drug dealers. The drug hood is in the same room the officers use for lunch etc. There is only one exit from the basement which houses the building's utilities and evidence. There is no privacy in the administrative area. Officers must share rooms. The Holding areas are not soundproof and are easily damaged. The garage has no ventilation.

The group asked how many juveniles we see? There must be separate interview rooms for juveniles. We need a safe room for staff.

There is no place to decontaminate if anyone is exposed to drugs or other chemicals.

The committee agreed we need to be more active talking about the need for a new station. We should consider doing neighborhood visits with Police officers to talk about the need for a new station.

River Valley Seniors at Home can be asked to host such a meeting.

We must also look for funding sources and should consider Northern Borders, CDBG, the USDA and others.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2024. We expect Michael Petrovick to be with us. A notice will be sent, and zoom will be available.