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TOWN OF FREETOWN

Building Committee

Joint Meeting of the Building Committee, COA Sub-Committee & Library Planning Committee

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Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, February 16, 2022

A meeting of the Building Committee was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM, at the Police Station, 15 Memorial Drive, Freetown, MA

**Present from Building Committee/COA Sub-Committee:** Chairwoman Lisa Pacheco, Kent Wilkins, Bob Alderson, George Grunwald, Cheryl Estrella, Paul Lubin, Nicole Davignon, Alfred Barros, Paul Sadeck, Jeffrey Amaral, Paula Charette, Margaret French, Wayne Jaye, Norman Landreville, and Bruce Wilbur

**Also Present:** Beverly Sadeck, Harrie Ashley, Deputy Fire Chief, Deborah Pettey, Interim Town Administrator and Kim Johnson, Recording Clerk.

The meeting of the Building Committee, COA Sub-Committee & Library Planning Committee was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Chair Lisa Pacheco started the meeting by saying that at the last meeting the COA was going to form their building committee and the library planning committee was going to start ironing out their plans and try to figure out which direction they want to go. Chair Pacheco then gave an update on the Police Station. She said that there are some outstanding equipment issues, and they are in the process of having the electrician come in to install some tracers in the lockers, and to work on the card readers and the trophy case light. Some crushed stone is needed under the tower. The committee will not be disbanded yet, and there will be an open house, with a date yet to be determined.

1. Discuss/approve options for addition to fire station #3 - Chair Pacheco said she would like to discuss the fire station next. She said that an additional area for women employees is needed. Harrie Ashley, Deputy Fire Chief, gave an update on a meeting that was held about the issues at the fire station. One update is that there are more important issues that need to be taken care of before adding additional space for female employees.

Deborah Pettey, Interim Town Administrator, said that they met to get a quote for a feasibility study and during that meeting things came to light. The station is old and cramped. This made them realize that a master plan or a total feasibility study for what is needed down the road, is needed. Funding for this feasibility study may have to wait until it is a warrant article for Town Meeting. There was some discussion about options at the fire station #3 and the satellite stations. The proposal is for all the needs of the fire station, and not just the additional space. The study will include the building being worked on in phases.

**Paul Sadeck motioned to move forward with the feasibility study for the Fire Station. Cheryl Estrella seconded. Vote was unanimous.**

2. Update on COA Sub-Committee - Bruce Wilbur said there was no real update from the COA Sub-Committee, as they have had no time. There was some talk to meet with the Library Committee to talk about some ideas to see if both committees could work together to possibly do a shared building.

3. Update on Library Planning Committee – Paul Sadeck said they are looking at the needs and have plans to meet further on the needs of the library. He said that he met with Norm Landreville of the COA, and he has a few floorplans for a combination COA/Library, and they plan to meet with the COA on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said that their plans involve renovating the current COA, and he has some concerns with that, including the availability of water. He would like to build a library for the future and have the availability of being able to add on as the needs of the library changes.

Nicole Davignon said that they would like the library building to be about 9,000 to 10,000 square feet and if it were smaller it would lead to the same struggles that they currently have. She said that they are doing their research and visiting other libraries. There was some discussion about the programs that libraries offer. There also was discussion about the land that could be used for a joint building. There also was discussion about what will pass at Town Meeting regarding financing a large building.

4. Discuss options – Chair Pacheco said that the two committees need to come to an agreement, whether it is a joint building, or not, and bring their ideas to the Building Committee. She went over the protocols with the two committees regarding planning and constructing a new building. There was some discussion about other libraries in Massachusetts that have a joint building with a COA and about grants that can be available and about the costs to maintain these buildings after they are built. Chair Pacheco said there will be another meeting in a few weeks for updates. There was a discussion on the hiring and the roles of the OPM and the architect.

**Paul Sadeck motioned to adjourn. Cheryl Estrella seconded. Vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Kim Johnson