

Housing the Richmond Police Department

At Town Meeting in 2014, a question was raised from the floor regarding future facilities for Fire, Rescue and the Police Department.

Nothing was done for nearly two years until the Richmond Selectboard allocated funds in 2015 to conduct a feasibility study for a combined Public Safety Building to house all three services

How far have we gone?

- An initial study committee of nine members, including an ex officio Selectboard Member (David Sander) and the Town Manager and representatives from Police, Fire, Rescue
- Black River Design was engaged to facilitate the feasibility study and produce a concept building
- The Committee met for several months and visited several newer public safety buildings in the area
- The major reports can be found online at www.richmondvt.gov

Feasibility Study

- **Black River Design produced a report that was released to the public in September of 2016**
- **The existing facilities of each service branch were scrutinized and deficiencies identified**
- **The initial building concept that was to replace the existing facilities was to house the three emergency services branches in a combined building of over 17,000 square feet**
- **At this time, Richmond Rescue decided to withdraw from the study and concentrate on expanding their current facility**
- **The Architect was directed to determine a building design that included Police & Fire only, with site criteria**

Police & Fire

- The design of the combined Police & Fire building, with a community room, was released to the public in June of 2017
- This new building was somewhat smaller than the original, however, still quite large
- Site criteria continued to be a moving target and the initial cost estimate of the new building was over \$7,000,000
- Two months later, the Fire Department withdrew from the building design, and opted to focus on safety improvements to the current station
- The Architect was again asked to remove the Fire Department from the concept, and produced a Police station with community room valued at about \$3,500,000

Where are we now?

- **The Selectboard agrees that \$3.5 million is too much for a Police station**
- **To date, we have spent \$30,470 on architectural services**
- **The Selectboard needs input from the public to continue moving forward with designing a building**
- **However, the Selectboard is in agreement that if we continue to provide Police services as we do now, a new building is needed**
- **The Selectboard wants to hear from voters on their level of comfort with continuing to design a new Police station**

The Question put to the Voters

Do the voters of Richmond support continued efforts by the Selectboard to finalize a plan for new building to house the Richmond Police Department at a cost not to exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000), provided that the voters have the opportunity to approve or deny funding before any construction is awarded?

What will the question answer for us?

- The Selectboard wants to know public support behind continuing to design a building
- The building may cost up to \$3,000,000 but not everyone agrees that this is a realistic figure
- Voting “Yes” on this question means you might be generally in favor of continuing to explore the design for a new building, but deferring the decision to build one until a later time.
- Voting “No” may mean that you feel that the building should be different, such as a smaller or less costly design, or you are against the town having a new building.
- Please be aware that neither by voting “Yes” means we will have a new building, nor does voting “No” mean that the issue will never come up again.

What other questions are there?