

Plymouth Police Building Committee and Plymouth Municipal Facilities Ad-Hoc Committee Timeline of Key Activities and Meetings

April 2014 - Prior to formation of building committee - The Police Chief provided Mayor Merchant with space usage and floor plans for police stations in Canton, Farmington and Southington, all of which had recently constructed facilities. The Chief and Asst Chief Wright visited these police stations. Mayor Merchant provided a draft floor plan to the Chief completed by a local architect for a potential renovation of the former Main Street School. The estimated cost of renovation to house the police department and BOE Central office was approximately \$8,000,000. The Chief reviewed and returned comments to the Mayor. Mayor Merchant did not move forward with plans to renovate Main Street School.

3/27/2019 – First meeting of the Police Building Committee. Review the charge given to the committee.

4/8/2019 – Received a detailed letter of the history and deficiencies from Police Chief Krasicky. She references the original study completed in 1986 by CJ Lawlor Associates that identified the current police station space as deficient. The consultant recommended a combined public safety facility. The Chief also referenced an additional study conducted in 1998 that also noted the space deficiency and recommended a combined public safety facility with police, ambulance and fire.

The building committee was not provided with any of the aforementioned studies including the plan completed for the former Main Street School prior to beginning the task of identifying a location for a new police department facility.

April 2019 – Several committee members toured the recently completed Bethel police department building. Bethel constructed a 24,000 square foot building for \$14,000,000.

The Building Committee discussed other potential sites for a new police department including the corner of Preston/Harwinton Avenue. The Committee decided to utilize the current proposed location since it is already town owned property, absence of wetlands and mainly flat topography, its proximity to the current town hall, and the ability to use the already existing parking lot for public police department parking.

6/5/2019 – Met with the Bethel PD to review what their process of approval and building was. Discussed a feasibility study RFP.

7/24/2019 – Review of RFP

8/28/2019 – Interview architects

9/4/2019 – Recommended Jacunski Humes to the town council to conduct a feasibility study.

10/2/2019 – Committee discussed ways in which we could educate the public including addition of information to the town website and information mailers.

Minutes for this meeting note the need for “political will, and the Town Council and Board of Finance need to be in agreement. The residents need to be kept informed so there are no surprises.

Committee members expressed wanting to discuss the timeline regarding referendum and construction.

10/9/2019 – Committee to go before the TC. Review the RFP and choice of lowest bidder.

11/20/2019 – Discussion with Brian Humes. Several committee members visited North Haven police department that was recently updated in an old building for \$11.6 million.

Police Department invited the public to tour the current police facility. Very little public response.

12/18/2019 Obtained an initial project estimate of \$16 million from Humes. Discussion with consultant to reduce original square footage estimate of 21,150 square feet to 16,725 for the main building and addition of a storage outbuilding to save money of 1,750 square feet. Total revised cost estimate of \$11,652,000.

5/27/2020 – Accepted the final revised plan of \$11,652,152. Total net usable square footage main building of 12,390 square feet. Storage outbuilding of 1,400 usable square feet.

Committee discussed the timeline for the project going out to a referendum vote.

July 2020 – Bob Green completed a prelim review of the proposed building lot. Committee continued to meet with Jacunski Humes regarding comments/concerns with the final study. For example, the final design needs to include a pitched, not a flat roof, for the sally port section of the building.

10/28/2020 – Committee discussed promoting the project. Gathered examples of various flyers that other towns used to inform and promote the passage of their project. Mayor Merchant did not provide the committee with any definitive date that he would put the project to referendum.

11/18/2020 – Committee started working on creating flyers to be sent to residents.

12/16/2020 – Committee continued to discuss moving the project to referendum and getting an date commitment from Mayor Merchant.

3/24/2021 – Chairperson sought another update on a referendum date from Mayor Merchant. The Mayor discussed a combined referendum for the police department and the sewer project. Committee members would like to see the police department be a stand-alone referendum.

4/28/2021 – Update from the Mayor on possible state funding. Mayor noted that there will be no referendum until we receive an updated from the state.

5/26/2021 – Committee discussed the escalation of building costs and the potential impact on the project. The committee reviewed the final promotional video of the police department tour.

7/28/2021 – Mayor Merchant provided the committee with an update on his request to the state for \$10 million in bonding funds. Noted that he sent a letter to the Governor and OPM inviting them to tour our police department.

The mayor noted that the promotional video that was recently completed would be posted to the website. The Mayor did not make this video public to the town residents to see the space restrictions and cramped space within the PD. The committee also did not send out any informational flyers, did not engage in full scale project publicity and education effort, etc. as the Mayor failed to ever set a referendum date to move the project forward prior to leaving office.

November 2021 – New mayor elected.

1/26/2022 – Chairperson Mitchell gave an update on discussions with new Mayor Kilduff. Mayor suggested possibly looking at alternative locations and/or renovating town hall.

Humes provided information that there was currently a 5% per year cost escalation for each year that we delay the project.

The committee discussed and agreed to move forward with the original site since it was already property owned by the town and we had already obtained preliminary schematic drawings for this site.

April 2022 – Committee member informed Mayor Kilduff that grant applications were open for Congressionally Directed Spending. Committee members offered to assist with compilation of the grant application, if needed.

5/3/2022 – Mayor's office submitted the grant application for CDS. Grant was denied consideration by the senators' offices.

3/10/2023 – Committee member emailed all specifications and deadlines for the FY 2024 CDS grant applications. All information was forwarded to Mayor Kilduff. The mayor's office completed and submitted the grant application for \$8.2M in March 2023. Grant was denied consideration by the senators' offices.

5/19/2023 – Governor Lamont visited Plymouth to tour the police department. Chairperson Mitchell attended. Detective Sgt Beiros and Officer Latimer provided the Governor with a tour and commentary. The town was still seeking state funding for the project that still had not been put to a town referendum.

Spring 2023 – The BOE voted to close FES and consolidate grades between the middle and high school as of the end of June 2023. After public outcry, the BOE reversed its decision to close the school.

December 2023 – The Police Building Committee was repurposed as the Municipal Facilities Ad Hoc Committee by Mayor Kilduff. All prior committee members stayed on the newly formed committee with the addition of one new member.

12/11/2023 – First meeting of the Facilities Committee. The Committee discussed their charge. Discussion of possible timing of Fisher School closing took place. Committee members expressed frustration that the police building project was never put to referendum to determine public support.

Mayor Kilduff stated that it will go to referendum once a feasibility study was completed for town hall and Fisher school as possible options for a combined municipal facility configuration.

Committee members reviewed a grid of a variety of facilities options between town hall, Fisher School and the back lot previously chosen for a new police building.

2/12/2024 – Committee discussed an RFP to review town hall and Fisher School for possible renovation plans.

Superintendent Falcone informed Chairperson Mitchell that there was no longer a current plan to close Fisher and that it may take place in 3-5 years.

4/12/2024 – Committee member Rheault prepared and submitted the FY 2025 CDS grant application request for \$8.9M.

4/22/2024 – Committee discussed interview questions for an RFP and the FY 2025 CDS grant application. Committee members toured Fisher School with potential firms to bid on a study.

March – April 2024 – Committee engaged in discussions and preparation of an RFQ to only review Town Hall since Fisher School was no longer a current viable option.

5/20/2024 – Committee interviewed and recommended Friar to perform the town hall study.

6/12/2024 – Received notification that the \$8.9M CDS application was selected by the senator's office to move forward for further consideration.

6/25/2024 – The Town Council approved ARPA funds to complete the town hall study.

7/18/2024 – Received notification that the CDS grant application was not selected to move to Senate appropriations.

Sept - Dec 2024 – Committee worked with Friar on the completion of the space needs study for town hall. Chairperson Mitchell resigned from the committee. Vice Chair Audette assumed the Chairperson role.

12/16/2024 – Committee reviewed an updated cost estimate from Jacunski Humes for the police building. Committee discussed a proposed cost recommendation for the police building and any additional funds to repurpose the vacated town hall space. Committee agreed that a full-scale renovation of town hall was too cost prohibitive.

1/6/2025 – Committee voted to recommend the police building project for \$21M to go to referendum pending town council approval and to request a joint informational meeting with the TC, BOF and police commission.