

D R A F T

Board of Selectmen

Listening Session

May 9, 2014

The Board of Selectmen met Friday evening, May 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Bow Community Center, located at 3 Bow Center Road, Bow, New Hampshire to hold a Listening Session to hear the Town's citizen's thoughts and ideas on how they would like the Town to house its Public Safety Operations and Recreational Resources.

For the record, the following forty-five (45) individuals, listed in alphabetical order, signed the sign-in sheet: Barbara Abbott, 32 Putney Road; Don Berube, 27 River Road; June Branscom, 2 Eastview Drive; Tony Camp, 30 Dunbarton Center Road; John Caron, 24 Putney Road; Tammy Ciminesi, 104 Woodhill Road; Lisa Cohen, 104 Brown Hill Road; Dave Cook, 15 Laurel Drive; Krista Crowell, 1 Everett Avenue; Sandy Crystall, 1 Shore View Drive; Arthur Cunningham, 8 Heather Lane; Mandy Degelsmith, 101 White Rock Hill Road; David Desmond, 63 Logging Hill Road; Cate DeVasto, 20 Poor Richards Drive; Dan DeVasto, 20 Poor Richards Drive; Barbara Downie, 18 Knox Road; Phil Downie, 18 Knox Road; Jack Driscoll, 23 Tonga Drive; Jolene Driscoll, 23 Tonga Drive; Bob Eldredge, 13 Meadow Lane; Sandy Eldredge, 13 Meadow Lane; Ken Demain, 53 Woodhill Hooksett Road; Dennis Dovidio 4 Dean Avenue; Peg Fargo, 1 Blueberry Lane; Warren Fargo, 1 Blueberry Lane; Jack Finan, 10 Bella View; Bill Gerrard, 5 Turee View Drive; Harry Hadaway, 10 Timmins Road; Richard Heath, 8 Buckingham Drive; Chris Hutcheson, 140 Bow Bog Road; Kelly Laflamme, 21 Surrey Coach Lane; Bryce Larrabee, 7 Parson's Way; Robert Louf, 3 Wheeler Road; John Meissner, 3 River Road; Parker Moore, 42 Knox Road; Garth Orsmond, 36 Tonga Drive; Bret Pfeifle, 8 Wilson Meadow Lane; Jean Rich, 11 Nesbitt Drive; Richard Tanguay, 34 Allen Road; Janet Shaw, 8 Page Road; John Urdi, 51 Putney Road; Sheri Vincent-Crisp, 5 Currier Drive; Bob Watt, 6 Poor Richards Drive; Michael Wayne, 153 Bow Bog Road; and Bryan Westover, 63 Robinson Road.

7:00 – 7:15 PM – Introduction and Overview

Selectmen Eric Anderson called the gathering to order, invited everyone to bring coffee or snack to a round table, asked that four to eight people gather at a table in order to facilitate a good lively healthy discourse.

Mr. Anderson welcomed everyone to the second of two planned listening sessions. As advertised, the Board of Selectmen want to hear from the people, specifically to hear your ideas and thoughts on how to house our public safety operations and our recreational resources as a result of this year's Town Meeting. Mr. Anderson introduced Selectman Harry Judd, Selectman Colleen Hunter, Selectman Jack Crisp and Chair Jill Hadaway as well as Dana Abbott, Fire Chief Dana Abbott, Emergency Management Director Lee Kimball, Lieutenant Haynes and Louise Knee, Recording Secretary. Mr. Anderson stated that for the past twenty five years the

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Town has been working on this issue, noted that in attendance are several Members of prior Safety Committees present and asked them to stand and be recognized – Arthur Cunningham, Ken Demain and Bob Eldredge.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Selectmen want to hear from everyone. A packet of materials has been prepared that includes the Agenda, background information to give an idea of the core related issues as well as the functional issues that the Board of Selectmen have been trying to address over the past several years, a worksheet to assist documenting ideas and thoughts to share, a couple of articles that appeared in the Concord Monitor, and finally a Volunteer Form. Mr. Anderson stated that he cannot emphasize enough the importance of Town Government and the responsibility each of us have to make our community a better community. Procedurally, round tables have been set up to ease the exchange of ideas and thoughts in a smaller group for brainstorming various options. Each table should elect a spokesperson and noted that on each table there is a sheet for the spokesperson to jot down the ideas generated. At 8:00 PM, the spokesperson from each table will present your ideas, which will be recorded on the flip charts for future consideration.

Mr. Anderson stated that after this Listening Session, the Board of Selectmen review all the suggestions and appoint the 7th Design and Building Review Committee to develop recommendations for the Board of Selectmen to consider and present to the Town's people at the Annual Town Meeting in 2015.

Mr. Anderson outlined a few ground rules. First, everyone is entitled to speak and asked that each state their name and address. Second, be respectful. Third, please keep ideas brief and to the point. Fourth, the Selectmen and Public Safety Officials are available to answer questions. Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for dedicating their Friday evening to join in the solution. Lastly, please introduce yourselves to your fellow tablemates and plan to reconvene at 8:00 PM.

7:15 – 8:00 PM – Round Table Discussions

Attendees engaged in discussion. Table A and B had no people. Tables C & D each had 7 people. Table E was empty. Tables F & G each had 8 individuals. Table H had no one. Table I had 7 people. Table J had 8 individuals. Table K had no people.

8:00 – 8:45 PM – Round Table Spokespersons Debrief the Attendees

Mr. Anderson reconvened the meeting and raised a colander in the air as a symbol of the next step in the process, which is to sift through all the ideas and come to a solution. Mr. Anderson stated that in the interest of fairness, a table will be drawn at random from the colander to present their ideas and asked that each speaker state their name and address.

TABLE D – spokesperson Bret Pfeifle, 8 Wilson Meadow Lane

- Something has to be done
- Safety building – need to simplify – eliminate duplication – could be smaller – can be aesthetically pleasant without so much cost

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- Options available for Fire and Police
- Important to keep Community Building
- Cost – what is it exactly and what are the tax implications?
- OK to hold a special Town Meeting before March 2015

TABLE G – spokesperson Dennis D’Ovidiu, 4 Dean Avenue

- Tax rate – increase in last 15 years – creates a transient community
- What happened to the phased approach with fire first and police second?
- Could a different parcel of land be selected that would reduce the sitework needed?
- Could a private company build the building and lease it to the Fire Dept?
- Police – what are the critical needs?
- Breakdown of cost at Town Meeting – what are/were the 8 categories? Sitework costs?
- Keep cost effective – geothermal a possibility? Phased approach?
- Single story building – eliminates expense of elevator for ADA compliance

TABLE F – spokesperson Jolene Driscoll, 23 Tonga Drive

- Proposal is too lavish – not enough data to support size
- Presentation at Town meeting did not have enough information
- The Rec Center needs to be part of the proposal
- “Essential” – how ‘essential’ does it need to be and what does it cost – earthquake proof needed in NH?
- lease the land for Town Center
- expand Police into DPW space
- Municipal Building for Rec?
- Elevator – needed? Can use back entrance

TABLE C – spokesperson Parker Moore, 42 Knox Road

- Discussed previous plans – keep Option 2 – PD, FD, Dispatch & Emergency
- Change construction material – back to basic, consider geothermal
- More public communication and information needed
- Keep Park & Rec in Phase II

TABLE I – spokesperson Tammy Ciminesi, 104 Woodhill Road

- Need to do something
- Need information with specifics regarding costs – too much misinformation
- Concern with combining Fire with Police – in center of Town
- Do we want Park & Rec close to FD & PD? Maybe not
- Look at other communities – what works well?
- Renovate the Community Building for just Fire – move/relocate Park & Rec
- Recreation Center is really multi-generational – all ages use it
 - Have architectural school students get involved
 - Public pool could be considered

- Could do community fundraising for new Rec Building

TABLE J – spokesperson John Urdi, 51 Putney Road

- Fire building now – PD in the future – build fire then add police
- Sitework – would cost be reduced if relocated on upper portion?
- Define program needs for Fire
- Is the cost greater than \$200/foot?
- Keep the Community Building – fund separately and do not include with FD & PD Bond
- Police needs should be addressed in the future – not now

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Bob Watt, 6 Poor Richards Drive - location not most cost effective - ~ \$3/4 million dollars just for sitework - upper lot is flat and might be better – could be other Town owned land that could be considered

Richard Tangway, Allen Rd – need to address Fire Dept now. Community Building needs to be up to Code as it is the Center of Town and is a separate issue. Separate financially for a fire building makes more sense

Lisa Cohen, Brown Hill Rd – professional architects, do they do design estimates for free? Single Fire Department building needed now

Faye Johnson, 110 Knox Rd – Tax Rate was big concern at Saturday’s Listening Session – if a big business comes to Town and needs sewer, it would require a bond and the Town would have another bond obligation – Dunbarton has a lower tax rate and people can buy their home in Dunbarton, pay Dunbarton their property tax and send their children to Bow without having to pay the higher taxes – concern – do in stages to keep taxes down

Bob (inaudible), Meadow Lane, stated that he also attended Saturday’s session and what has not discussed is the Police station. That building has issues. What needs to be done to bring it up to code? Need to know what issues the police really have and what they need.

Female – budget – put \$ aside for Community Building/Park & Rec

John Caron, 24 Putney Road – trustee & trust accounts – CIP – need to put monies aside a little at a time, have known this need for some time and it is not in the CIP

Richard Tanguay, Allen Road – at Town Meeting the finances were presented to be “tax neutral” after the school bond was paid off so can be done without a major tax impact – need fire now – fire and police are separate issues

Richard Heath, Buckingham Drive – cost, regardless if ‘tax neutral’ needs scrutiny – need to check out what other Communities have accomplished – check out New Hampton

Parker Moore, 42 Knox Road - comparisons with Hampton and other complexes – good, but need to know what services they provide – Bow has regional dispatch servicing 4 towns and emergency management in addition to traditional police and fire

Kelly LaPlant, 21 Surrey Coach Lane – new to Town – amazing how it operates – need to budget - need to create a narrative of what Bow residents want – Community/ Park & Rec important

Warren Fargo, Blueberry Lane – issue of funding further studies, not resolved – “special town meeting” should be considered sooner rather than later to allocate money to get information to present at the March 2015 Town Meeting – and all the talk for “neutral” tax impact just isn’t going to happen

June Ranscom, 2 Eastview Drive – seems to be a common theme – COMMUNICATION – but no one is coming to listen, to share – less than 100 in a Town of more than 6,000

COMMUNICATION – email works, signs at gazebo, sign up on Town’s website

Someone mentioned that she received a personal handwritten note inviting her to the Listening Session and that otherwise she would not have known it was happening. Mr. Anderson stated that the invitation came from Colleen Hunter who went through the Minutes from the Town Meeting and sent out invitation to all those who spoke on the related Warrant Articles for the public safety facilities. Mr. Judd stated that one of the reasons for asking for email addresses on the sign-in sheet is to create a mailing list to help with communication and added that the personal note was a personal effort from Colleen who not only took the initiative but also used her own resources for the stationary and postage in addition to providing tonight’s refreshment. Appreciation was expressed with a round of applause.

WHAT’S NEXT

- BoS will review all suggestions shared and appoint Committee who will present ideas to the BoS for presentation at Town Meeting
- Need volunteers

10:45 – 11:00 AM – 1st Listening Session Wrap-up

Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for attending and sharing. Jill Hadaway thanked everyone and asked that people fill out the Volunteer Form and become involved in the solution.

9:00 PM - Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Knee for Board of Selectmen