

ONLY \$76,900 TO BRING COMMUNITY BUILDING INTO LIFE SAFETY COMPLIANCE

Based upon multiple inspections in the last 15 years by the State Fire Marshal and others, Life Safety Engineer Robert Cummings has prepared a report that finally includes the cost of life and fire safety upgrades for the Community Building used for assembly and storage only. The total comes to \$76,900.

Recently many town groups have had to remove items they have stored in the Community Building for decades including the Men's Club and the Boy Scouts.

The order for removal came from Town Manager Dave Stack. No removal order had ever been issued over the ten years the State Fire Marshal had pointed out the same deficiencies nor has our Fire Chief ordered removal or closure.

The major expenses are \$30,000 for a fire alarm system for the entire building and \$10,000 for emergency light battery packs for the building.

The other items are mainly wallboard and doors. The complete list appears on page four (4).

The issue of asbestos removal is not present if the fire side of the building is not used. Estimates on the town site by Peniel Environmental Solutions are not consistent with the prior 2015 report on removal done for the town by Enviro Advantage. The Peniel price is \$21,000 if the Community Building is demolished, but the prior report called for \$59,500 if the removal was part of a demolition.

On December 19, 2017, the selectmen discussed demolishing the Community Building for a price of \$197,334 and relocating the Parks and Recreation Department to the Coffin Building at an estimated cost of \$30,500 according to the minutes. A warrant article to that effect will be prepared for town meeting.

The cost to relocate the Recreation Department is now estimated on the town website to be at least \$46,000 as of January 10, 2018.

At the selectmen's meeting held on January 8, 2018, Michelle Vechione, a 30 year veteran of the

department, spoke on behalf of the department, and as an individual. She said the building "is the heart of Bow where townspeople come together."

She said that to rent space from the Sports Center in Hooksett will be expensive, inconvenient and will continue for years to come. The last cost cannot be quantified at this time.

Vechione also said that for 17 years as the department's former program staffer, the schools made it clear that they do not want various groups at various times using their facilities. Such use "was discontinued years ago," she said.

Selectman Ben Kiniry said that demolition may be the only choice the selectmen give the voters, but that "citizens can always file their own petition article."

Several other town residents also attended out of concern for the future of the building and anticipate filing an article for the town meeting.

When Ms. Vechione asked the selectmen what would happen if the demolition article is voted down, the response was they would close the building if the life safety issues were not addressed.

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NEW TOWN MAP
OF BOW IN THIS
MONTH'S ISSUE,
COMPLIMENTS
OF THE BOW
ROTARY CLUB.**