

DPW Building Committee

October 13, 2015 - 6:00 PM – DPW Facility

Present: Jim Bender, Kyle Johnson, Kelley Hansen, Ron Putnam, Jamie Piedrafite, Brian Pochini, Steve Nims

The meeting was called to order by Selectman Kyle Johnson, at 6 PM

The purpose of meeting was to tour the DPW facility to fully understand the current working conditions and the requirements for a new facility.

The minutes from the 22 September 2015 DPW Building Committee were read and accepted.

Prior to the tour, Steve Nims gave an overview of the DPW department and discussed his concerns.

1. The buildings for the highway and water departments have multiple code issues. No sprinkler or fire systems exist in the buildings. There are cracks in the foundation and several metal columns are twisted and rusted on the bottom. There is no fixed lift for the vehicles.
2. Areas within the buildings are not handicap accessible. There are several sets of stairs that prohibit handicap access to the bays. The restroom in the highway building is on the second floor and in unsatisfactory condition. The office in the water department building is on the second floor and there are no bathrooms facilities within the building.
3. The equipment bays were entirely full and there were still 5 vehicles outside. It was noted that the 2 plow trucks could not fit end to end in a bay. The plow blades would have to be detached from the trucks before the vehicles were parked in the bays for the night.
4. There are 1 ½ full-time administrative employees, 6 employees in the highway department, 2 employees in the water department and 3 employees in the grounds department. Meetings with the employees must be held in the equipment bays as there is nowhere else to gather.

During the tour of the buildings, the code issues and cramped conditions were readily apparent. After the tour the committees discussed several methods of getting information out to the residents because the previous plan for a new facility was turned down decisively by voters. These methods were discussed:

1. Cable access
2. Digitally through the Ashburnham Web Site
3. DPW facility tours
4. Message boards
5. Open forums with Weston & Sampson

Weston & Sampson were asked to review prior plans and come up with an updated estimate. Brian Pochini will be the liaison with Weston and Sampson

The next DPW meeting is scheduled for November 3rd, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center at the Town Hall (upstairs)

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Putnam

Secretary DPW Building Committee