

Council Questions - Responses

Draft: June 17, 2010

Question	Response
<p>Library Proposal: Have you considered the three existing school libraries in Town in determining the plan for Falmouth Memorial Library (FML), relative to available floor area, opening hours, and connectivity?</p>	<p><i>Yes, however, school libraries serve a different population and have a different mission as they support the school curriculum. There is some overlap with FML, but not much, and collaborative efforts exist. Yet, there are also security issues with school access and limited availability of materials at school libraries compared to FML which serves a broader population.</i></p>
<p>Community Recreation Center Proposal: Does the Town have access to the “community gym” that was built as part of the new High School?</p>	<p><i>The Town has access during non-school hours only. Community Programs staff is assembling actual space availability data for all meeting spaces that it schedules.</i></p>
<p>Renovation vs. New Construction Cost: What do we do if it turns out that new construction may be cheaper than renovation?</p>	<p><i>Rob Tillotson of Oak Point Associates has stated that typically renovations will be less costly than building new depending on the finish standard used for the renovation. As there are no State requirements to build “like new” for the proposed uses, as was the case with renovations for school use, less expense is expected with the proposed renovations at the Plummer-Mot-Lunt site.</i></p>
<p>Operational Cost: How do you know the Plummer building will be more energy efficient than the current Town Hall?</p>	<p><i>Mechanical systems at Plummer are proposed to be upgraded. This could be done at Town Hall as well, but that building will not provide the gain in useable space that the Plummer building will. In addition, the masonry construction of the Plummer building will provide more durability than the current Town Hall.</i></p>
<p>Sale Revenue: What will happen if the Town is unable to sell the Town Hall or library building?</p>	<p><i>Renovations will only commence as long as the revenue required for each one is in hand.</i></p>
<p>Other Revenue: Have you considered grants, such as historic preservation or energy grants, to help defray renovation expenses?</p>	<p><i>Staff has assembled an initial grant list. There are some limited opportunities, including the Dept of Conservation’s Land and Water Conservation Fund, Cumberland County’s Community Development Block Grant, and possibly the new Communities for Maine’s Future Program by Dept of Econ. and Comm. Development.</i></p>