

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

March 16, 2015

1. Vice President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm
2. Vice President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll - all Councillors were present.
3. A motion by President Marchese to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
4. A resolution concerning wireless internet for the Government Center and other City buildings was submitted by Councillor Fowler. Councillor Fowler moved to hear from an off-committee member - IT Director Donnie Aucoin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler asked questions concerning the status of the wireless internet. Mr. Aucoin distributed a handout to the Committee members. Councillor Fowler stated, "You have a plan, it's in the CIP, but not funded. Your department has done the work." Councillor Romard asked, "How much is the plan?" Mr. Aucoin replied, "\$40-\$50K." Councillor Romard stated, "Being held up in the CIP. This lies with the Mayor." Mr. Aucoin replied, "Clearly". After a brief pause, Mr. Aucoin stated, "and the Council." Councillor Stanley asked questions concerning the capital budget, its funding and if it had been approved. Councillor Fowler requested to amend his resolution to add the following language "and that the Mayor put funding into the next budget". Councillor Fowler moved to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. Councillor Vizard moved to take the resolution concerning public safety projects (9/8/2014) from the table. The motion was adopted by a voice vote. Councillor Vizard moved to hear from off-committee members - Mayor McCarthy, Fire Chief Ciccone and Deputy Police Chief Stanton. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vizard asked about the status of the Police Station project. The Mayor stated the project has been designed and is ready to go out to bid. The Mayor stated there are two issues that must be resolved - Issue 1: Signed agreement with Watertown PD to house Waltham prisoners in its cells and Issue 2: Temporary location for the Waltham PD during the project. The Mayor stated that the Administration Building at the Fernald property presented a viable location for several reasons, including the building condition, parking for the Police and providing security for the Fernald property. The Mayor stated the City Council needs to authorize the use of the Administration Building. The Mayor disclosed that the Police Union recently stated it wants a new station. Deputy Chief Stanton explained the various components of the renovation project and the features to be included. Councillor Brasco stated his objection to the renovation project, instead advocating for a new Police Station. Councillor Brasco believed it made more sense to move Public Works to the Fernald

property and build a combined public safety facility on the Lexington Street site. The Mayor stated her willingness to look into Councillor Brasco's suggestion, but cautioned about some of the impediments. The Mayor again re-iterated the renovation project is "ready to go, but if the Council wants to propose something different." Councillor Vizard asked questions about the status of the Moody Street Fire Station project. The Mayor requested a feasibility study be done by Maguire. The Mayor stated that Maguire had looked at multiple sites in the City but concluded that using the existing site with the taking of adjacent buildings was the most plausible. The Mayor reminded the Committee of the \$380,000 liability from the former WATCH property if it is used for an alternative purpose before 2021. Chief Ciccone expressed his opinion for a new station on the existing site. Councillor Logan was dismissive of the \$380,000 liability as an obstacle to moving ahead; that it should be factored into the project cost and not wait until 2021. The Mayor stated that there is a schematic design, but not final drawings. The Mayor also reminded the Committee of the commercial leases in place until 2019 and the source of revenue they provide to offset the expenses associated with the lease of the building. The Mayor explained the three options to the Committee - Option A: Add to existing building, add 2 bays, keep rest as is, Option B: Add to existing building, add 2 bays, renovate building (phasing is a problem) and Option C: Add to existing building, add a second floor, add 2 bays (has phasing ability). Councillor Rourke requested copies of the Maguire report and stated it sounds like you could proceed with Option C. The Mayor stated that there needs to be a design RFP, go through the Designer Selection Board (DSB) process and select the architect. The Mayor stated the pending collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighters' Union is a variable. Councillor Stanley questioned the Mayor on the impact of the Police and Fire collective bargaining agreements. The Mayor stated that she had only mentioned the Fire Union; the Police want a new station and she cannot discuss the Fire Union right now. Councillor Stanley questioned the Mayor on the Police Station project, specifically the plans and the cost estimates. The Mayor stated the plans and cost estimates have been done, just waiting for the two issues to be resolved - Watertown agreement and Council authorization to use Fernald. The Mayor stated that she had provided her recommendation on Fernald in a communication dated November 6, 2014. The Mayor distributed a copy of the communication to the Committee members. Councillor Stanley expressed his displeasure and concern of not having received this information at the time. Councillors Logan, McMenimen, Waddick and Darcy commented on the Mayor's November 6 communication as a proper docket item or not. Councillor Logan requested copies of the leases of 509 and 515 Moody Street from the City's Housing Director. The request was approved on a voice vote. Councillor Vizard moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

6. A motion by Councillor Brasco to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:50 pm.