

Town of Burlington, Town Hall Annex  
Capital Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2022

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Committee members present: Gary Kasky, Gary Mercier, Margarita Prajapati (via web-ex), Salvana Shakaib (via web-ex), Ernest Zabolotny (via web-ex), Mark Woods

Presenters: Chief Thomas P. Browne, Burlington Police Department, and John Danizio, Assistant Town Administrator

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to review Warrant Article 4, which is a request to fund a Police Station Feasibility Study for the amount of \$150,000.

John Danizio outlined the components of the study as follows:

- 1) Space needs assessment and space program - this analysis is to determine the amount of space needed for the police station
- 2) Site assessment (multiple sites) – assess the suitability, size, and zoning requirements on multiple town sites
- 3) Schematic design – provide conceptual design(s) for a building and site layout
- 4) Cost estimation – provide a cost estimate (soft and hard costs) for a potential project

The study will give the town the information needed to ascertain how to move forward with a police station project. Town Meeting would need to approve funding in order for the project to move forward.

Ernie Zabolotny provided some historical perspective about the police station pointing out that the current police station (last modified in 1990-1992) was to be a “temporary” station, and not a permanent solution. The police department has had a placemark in their capital budget planning for a new station for the last 10 years.

Chief Browne spoke next and provided examples of the issues plaguing the current building.

One of major issues is security. When suspects and/or criminals are brought into the booking room, this area sits in the middle of the operations center, where civilian employees need to walk in order to access their work space, leaving these employees potentially in harms way if the officers are dealing with a violent offender. Since the booking area is not directly connected to the cell block, after someone has been booked, they are again escorted through a common area with no security for civilian employees working in the building.

Other major issues concern the actual police station building. Parts of the police station exist in what was once the Union school that was built in 1897. Over time the building has settled and parts of the floor are sloped making it potentially dangerous when walking back and forth in this part of the building. It also has made it virtually impossible to install windows that sit flush as the building is not level. This leads to windows that cannot be fully closed and has resulted in water damage and mold forming on parts of the walls throughout the entire building, plus the inability to adequately heat and cool the building for employees.

The plumbing is also problematic as pipes have leaked or burst, causing sewage to back up in sinks and toilets in various parts of the building. Additional water leaks have cascaded down staircases, and have flooded areas such as the locker rooms, showers, toilets, the evidence room, as well as leaking into the IT room that runs all of the computer and communication systems for the department.

The chief also pointed out that since fiscal year 2020 to present \$115,000 has been spent on repairs, not including plumbing costs.

The committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of the Warrant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Submitted by Mark Woods, Capital Budget Chairperson, TMM Precinct 7