The Police Facility Committee Recommends and Supports

- Building a new facility that meets the current and future public safety needs of the community
- Consolidation of multiple locations into a single space
- Suitable working conditions for employees and citizens interacting with the Police Department (PD)
- A site location with access to major routes that traverse Essex
- Designs that include opportunities for energy efficiency and LEED certification

Goals of the New Police Facility

- To provide a SECURE ENVIRONMENT for the public and police officers
- To design a FACILITY to better SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY
- To enhance COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH programs
- To better INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY
- To improve INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORK FLOW
- To meet OPERATIONAL and LONG-TERM STORAGE requirements
- To provide workspace FLEXIBILITY and EXPANDABILITY

About the Police Facility Committee (PFC)

Volunteers from across the community were charged to improve the working conditions and effectiveness of the personnel that protect our safety and security. The PFC consisted of citizens, members from Police Department, Selectboard and Trustees.

Over a two-year period the committee studied a multitude of options with the help of architecture, construction and environmental experts. They considered community requirements for policing, the inadequacy of existing Police Department facilities, new building design concepts, construction methods for designing and building a new facility and energy efficiency elements.
About the New Home for Your Police:

- New 1-story building will accommodate the PD for the next 40 years
- More efficient with all Essex PD operations under one roof
- Eliminates today’s off site rentals ($45K/yr)
- Energy Efficient (LEED “Gold” capable)
- Utility costs projected to be net zero
- Occupant and visitor friendly
- Healthier air, better lighting
- Adequate parking, not in a flood plain
- Visible and accessible to the public
- The bond would only add between $11 and $48 per year to the average property tax bill

Why Now?

- Need to grow with the future population of Essex
- Multiple locations add costs and inefficiency, including leased space for detectives and parking
- Proven inadequate in large “safety incidents”
- No citizen privacy for complaints and investigation
- Detrimental to employee morale, public interactions, health and safety of building users
- At ¾ acre is inadequate parking and no room for expansion
- Located in floodplain
- Although Essex is the second largest community in VT, the PD had the least amount of space per PD employee in County
- Compared to all the other police organizations in Chittenden County, Essex has 1/3rd to 1/8th the amount of space per employee

The existing police facility… is not sufficient to carry out the mission of the department.”
(David E. Demag, Chief, 2001 Essex Annual Report)

Public Information Meetings are scheduled for Monday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m. at 81 Main Street and Monday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m. at Essex High School.

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