

To: Prospective OPM Candidates

From: Chief Eric M. Shears

Re: RFQ for OPM

Date: December 4, 2017

Good morning,

My name is Eric Shears and I am Merrimac's police chief. Thank you for coming to the Voluntary Pre-Bid Meeting today.

If you haven't already, please sign the roster that is going around.

Before we get started, I would like to recognize, introduce and thank the current members of the Public Safety Building Committee.

DPW Director Robert Sinibaldi.

Carol McLeod, Finance Director

Mark Tocci, Engineer and member of the Building Committee.

Rick Pinciario, Former Selectmen and member of the Building Committee.

Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Director of the Senior Center and Former Member of the BOS.

Mr. Chris Gaudet, Resident.

Mrs. Yvonne Bednarz, Resident.

Plan History...

In April of 2014, Town meeting approved an Article to fund a Feasibility Study to determine the needs of the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Management and DPW as these departments are all housed in the Public Safety Building.

We hired HKT Architects in September of 2015 after a competitive bid process. In July of 2016, the study was completed and we were going to move forward with an article to fund the project as designed by HKT at the October (fall) Town Meeting. The Committee withdrew the request as we felt after looking at it and receiving feedback that it was excessively expensive for our community. (\$25,428,140)

In the spring of 2017, we pared down the cost considerably by thinking outside the box and brought a recommended article for \$15,000,000. This article did not garner the required 2/3's support needed to pass and was soundly defeated at the election.

Throughout this process, the Public Safety Building Committee has listened to the residents of this community. We have listened and learned from the last Town Meeting. We have collectively spoken to numerous residents and heard their concerns. We have learned from a brief survey we sent with the Light Bills in late July of this year. Based on this information, we are here today with funding to move our plan forward.

So here we are today...

I believe that building a new police facility is a “NEED” for this community. The current facility is outdated, unsafe and impediment to efficient police operations, investigations and administration.

In looking at the community survey results,

79% of those who answered indicated that the Fire, Police and DPW need to be repaired. In the comments, it was clear that people recognized the need and wanted the project scaled down.

54% of those who answered would support a new Police Station located on West Main Street. In a review of the comments, many would like to see the police project cost scaled down. Many expressed that the police should be a priority.

In addition to the survey, the committee also extensively researched existing projects that are being built in Massachusetts.

We believe that a police station of 7000 square feet would work for Merrimac now and 30 to 50 years into the future. We believe the cost to build a station of this size would be about 5.2 to 5.5 million dollars.

At our fall 2017 Town Meeting, the Town voted to support the borrowing of \$500,000 to fund Design, Engineering and the hiring of an Owners Project Manager for this project. These steps are required at this stage of the project.

I am happy to take questions at this point and then if you are interested, I can give you a tour of the building.

After that I am happy to take you to the area where the new station if funded will be built.

Thanks,

Chief Shears