



**FACILITIES AND SPACE NEEDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES\*  
JUNE 27, 2022  
HYBRID MEETING**

**1. Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mary Anne Rush

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Susan Alexandre, Larry Carlson, Anthony DiLuzio (left at 10:16 a.m.), Borianna Dolliver, Sheldon Drucker, Jeff Franson Ian Kaiser, Mary Anne O'Connell Rush, Percy Stevens and Michele Tourangeau (joined at 9:01 a.m.)

**Absent:** Jason Corbin

**Town of Ogunquit Invited Panelists Present:**

Matt Buttrick, Town Manager

Heath Ouellette, Select Board Member and Committee Liaison

Mary Anne Rush thanked all members for all the hard work and dedication exhibited over the past year.

**3. Committee Members Agreement to Remain on the Committee Assuming the Select Board Votes to Have Us Continue**

Roll call vote of each attending member. All except for Ian voted yes. Ian wanted to wait to see how the meeting went. Towards the end of the meeting, Ian was complimentary of the meeting and decided he would like to continue to serve on the Committee.

**4. Nomination and Confirmation of Secretary**

Larry Carlson Nominated by Michele and seconded by Sheldon. Vote: 10-0

**5. Article 53 Debrief**

Survey – How could we have communicated better?

**Larry:** need to find a way to reach those that do not use social media as we want their input. Not sure if it is mailings or something else. Broadcast information sessions on WOGT.

**Michelle:** believes that there are truly people that do not know what is going on either because they may not care or do not use social media. Also feels that there are people that do know what is going on but prefer not to participate. How do we get those people to want to pay attention and care? Felt we did a good job of getting correct information out there but also believes that there were a lot of items relating to money and that may have scared people.

**Larry:** do we want to consider a different day/time??

**Jeff:** some surprise of the rule that we as a committee could not advocate for the #53 within 30 days of the election. Need to back up our communications so that they are before that window.

**Tony:** FSN crosses a lot of projects and other committees. The communities facilities need to be on each standing committee's agenda. Tony has advocated for a more permanent standing facilities committee.

**Sheldon:** agree with Tony and Larry. Spoke to a number of people and a common thread was they did not know what was going on. Agrees that it may take activities with other town committees to help get the message out.

**Mary Anne** asked how we would feel about putting out a survey.

**Boriana:** feels that #53 got caught in a political crossfire. Need to work on the climate in town where everyone can look in the same direction.

**Michele:** agrees that a survey may be helpful.

**Ian:** agrees with Boriana on town being divided. Likes idea of survey and getting specifics. Need to be involved with other committees. We can as a group bring this together. Past is past and need to go forward as a community.

**Percy:** feels we lost on dollars and cents. Does feel the survey is a good idea but when you go to vote, it is the number.

**Michele:** feels that we did what the select board asked us to do. Praised Tony for his professional advice. We need certain things and some things we want. We were guided in a professional way.

**Tony:** on average, communities go for capital projects 5 times.

**Sheldon:** agreed that voters are scared of dollars, with reevaluation, people are scared, economy is proving that people are scared about higher expenditures. Also have to face the fact that most of the residents are elderly. Some said to him that the town of Wells complex is not what we want or need. Need to get the facts out to protect our workers and residents.

## 6. Committee's Focus/Direction going forward

**Jeff:** would like to focus on OVS. Electricity has been disconnected and there are no lights on the playground. Focus on hazardous material. Take this big thing and break it down into smaller modules.

**Larry:** likes the concept of staging the changes which Percy mentioned awhile back. One of the proposed options is possibility of police and town office into OVS and give the Dunaway back to the community. Could we do that as one stage and then the second would be dealing with the Dunaway Center.

**Boriana:** asked about putting some referendum question on the November ballot like are you in favor of demolishing OVS.

**Heath:** confirmed that we cannot put on a request for new dollars. Only thing we could do is to tap into our reserve account. We have ~\$4mm and auditors like to see at least \$3mm and prefer \$4mm for potential emergency situations that may arise. Does believe that more philosophical questions can be on the November ballot.

**Ian:** added that he thought it would be a good idea.

**Mary Anne:** would like to focus on the police department.

**Percy:** agreed as we had all expressed in earlier sessions that the PD is the main focus. He also shared that he could draw a picture of what OVS will look like when all is worked through, and it will just be a shell.

**Boriana:** brought up article in Seacoastonline. What is our responsibility? Does not feel they should be left down there.

**Tony:** added that what to do to address the grievance is up to the Select Board. FSN would be more for longer term solutions.

## 7. Public Comments\*

**Michael Sgambati:** Thanked members of FSN for the hard work and time we put into the issue. One option is to spend time on educating voters as it relates to the proposed options. The other option, which he is in favor of is to do a better job of understanding of what it is the taxpayers have an appetite for and what they want to do. Talked about charettes and feedback loops.

**Barbara Ferraro:** Agrees that the Committee has worked very hard throughout the process as well as there is a definite need to renovate and upgrade the campus. Third is that a major priority is the space for the Ogunquit Police. Brought up Parks and Recreation and their budget item. Wondered if the budget projections were reasonable and practical. Felt that a smaller, reasonable request would have been winnable. Concern over Committee ridiculing people. Should acknowledge and not dismiss the voters.

**Jim Hartwell:** Reiterated the comments of previous speakers that there has been a lot of time and effort put into the development of this plan. Would hope the public comments will be constructive and assist us in moving forward. Why didn't the public vote for Article 53? ...why was FSN formed one year in advance of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, feels this is a piece of the Comp Plan and does not take into consideration the total needs of the community, timing for anyone to move forward on a construction project is questionable.

**Wes Elliott:** Thanked the Committee for all the hard work. The main problem is not with people in this Committee but voter apathy in this town. We have 1,300 voters and less than 600 voted. We have a political organization that is very well run of about 20 people and when there is an election, they get their core backers that will get out and vote. We need to get more people out to vote. Pointing out lies and misinformation put out by this group is not shaming, it is just telling the truth.

**Bob Whitelaw** (speaking as a resident and not Select Board Member). Thanked the Committee for the hard work and did a great job. Two roles to play: liked to see a long-term strategic plan for all of our facilities which includes even the old public works building. There is also the tactical work that needs to get done and obviously the police department and OVS which is a problem.

**Louesa Gillespie:** Thanked the Committee for the work. Professional and respectful of all opinions. Her take on why it did not pass as we did not do enough for marketing and communications. Tried to find a printout of what the \$875,000 is as her friends had shared that they did not know what it was for. Suggested we needed more transparency on that. Like to see the Dunaway returned to the community and has concerns about the police department. Suggested coffee tours to see the PD. Agreed with J Hartwell to get Comp Plan Committee involved.

**Pat Hussey:** First applauded the work and commitment of the Committee. Communication is very critical. Complaints about a community member is not helpful.

**Matt Buttrick:** addressed comment as to why he sat where he did....to make the room not look divided.

Public comment was closed and reopened as member of the community was using a person's phone who had already spoken and wished to be heard.

**Wes Elliott:** The \$875,000 was definitely a big number and a lot of people did not understand exactly where the money was going. Some people were afraid that the police station was going to get too big. Have to work as a community to present something appropriate for our size.

**8. Additional Committee Comments**

**Sheldon** asked to be heard. He is the only member on FSN that is also on the Comp Plan Committee. He is head of a sub-committee to oversee public safety. Role will be to project out a plan for the next 5, 10 or even 20 years for the growth and/or benefit of the community. He is concerned about the police department. State and federal regulation requires a lot more than we have in our present public safety buildings. Referenced an upcoming Vision Day and all concerned should come to the sessions.

**9. Follow-Up Items**

- Mary Anne will send a note to the Select Board stating that we, as a committee, are willing to continue.
- In favor of doing a survey – next steps

**10. Next Meeting** - tentatively September 12th, 2022

**11. Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn made by Ian and seconded by Sheldon. **Approved 9-0.** Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Carlson, Committee Member

*\*Please note that every effort is made to capture the essence of the meeting in these Minutes; however, they are not an exact replication of all items discussed or comments made. If you would like an actual replay of the meeting, please click on the link below which should allow you to watch the entire June 27, 2022, meeting on Town Hall Streams (Duration: 1:24:10)*

[https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location\\_id=40&id=45676](https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=40&id=45676)