

TOWN OF CASTLETON
INFORMATIONAL MEETING February 8, 2016
Castleton Volunteer Fire Station

Open Informational Meeting with Pledge of Allegiance

J. Bruno opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

Introduction & Presentation

J. Bruno explained that this was the first of 2 or 3 meetings that the Board will be holding to get the public and suggestions on the building of a new Town Office.

He stated that the floor plan is not carved in stone and the Board is looking for input from the citizens to help with this project.

The article will be Article 55 on the ballot and the \$255,341.00 will come from sale of town property, left over from Fire Station and reserve funds. This amount could increase with more sales of town properties and assets.

J. Bruno felt that the public did not understand where the property for the Town Office was. It was advertised as Lafond-Moore property and it is not the Lafond junk yard behind the Post Office. It is the property next to the Fire Dept. It is already subdivided. It is 3.3 acres. At the present time the Fire and Police Dept.'s have to share the driveway with the medical center due to Act 250. This plan would allow us to have our own access to all three buildings.

He continued saying would like to see parking on the South side and parking in back for employees and stated that there is room to expand the back of the building if needed in the future.

M. Brown stated that the Board has done a wonderful job. The location is great; it's a nice design without spending too much money. He agreed with the parking on the side. He feels it's important to bring this informational meeting to the Seniors at the Community Center.

K. Thornblade stated that the Clerk should be up front and the conference room should be at the back. Also, the vault on the outside wall keeps the vault very cold.

B. Potter agreed that the Clerk is very busy and should be up front.

M. Brown stated that citizens needing the Town Clerk can use the back door or with appropriate signage in the building they could find it themselves, without bothering working employees.

J. Mark stated that maybe the entrance area should be U shaped.

D. Celik asked how much the property was. J. Bruno stated that the owner was working with the Town and it was \$100,000.00 and it is up to the voters to approve the purchase.

PAGE 2 – INFORMATIONAL MTG – 2/8/16

D. Celik asked about the 80 acres of property on Sand Hill that was given to the town. J. Bruno stated that it was 18 acres and there is no sewer there and it was given with stipulations, it has to be used for agricultural uses, like a community garden.

K. Thornblade had a suggestion of solar panels on the south facing roof.

M. Finnegan asked where the town was in the sale of the old firehouse. J. Bruno stated that there has been only one offer and it was not reasonable.

M. Finnegan asked if it has been listed with a Realtor yet. J. Bruno replied “not yet”, as the town would like to save the 6 – 10 % commission that would have to be paid. But it will be the next step if there are no reasonable offers made.

C. LaPerle stated in order to get this to pass it is imperative to show the public the cost savings of building a town office now vs waiting when it will just cost more money and the wasting of money on rental of the temporary buildings.

M. Brown suggesting moveable cubicle walls so the interior office space can be rearranged to accommodate growth.

R. Combs stated one of the reasons this property was considered by the Board was that it does not require an ACT 250 permit, there are no wetland issues which means there will no added extra costs for permits and fees.

C. Smith asked if there was a way to get out of the \$68,000.00 Architectural & Engineering fees.

J. Bruno strongly feels that we could work around it. He would like to use local contractors and have local citizens who have expertise in each phase of construction. He states they would probably ask each for a performance bond and insurance. But he feels that local contractors will have a vested interest in the building.

M. Brown agreed that getting the community involved with the construction is a great idea. He stated that we had numerous citizens who had experience, like F. Taggart, who could help with the overseeing of the construction.

L. Ellwood asked if using a modular building instead of a stick building had ever been considered. J. Bruno stated that it had not, but it was an idea to be considered.

J. Finnegan suggested that the information that is put up on the website regarding this issue be the same information used in a mailing.

PAGE 3 – INFORMATIONAL MTG – 2/8/16

J. Bruno wanted to 'Thank' everyone that attended and was very happy to receive all the suggestions. The next meeting will be February 15th.

Close Informational Meeting

MOTION: J. Leamy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully

V. Waldron

Date of Approval

DRAFT