

SAFETY COMPLEX - POLICE EXPANSION

A Brief History to June 2011

- <2000? Need identified for expansion of the police facility residing in the Town Hall basement
- ???? Next-generation ambulance will not fit in Ambulance Bay (now the Annex).
- 2003 First Facilities Study Committee appointed. Researched, designed and proposed to build Ambulance and Police facilities in a joint Safety Complex building. Taken to Town Meeting, Ambulance passed, PD did not. Projected buildout population at that time was 6,000.
- 2003 Land was purchased and Ambulance facility was built, with its sprinkler system installed but not completed. Completion depends upon including cistern, pump and additional hardware when PD is built, at substantial expense. Electrical, heat and septic were built to accommodate Police.
- 2008 Facilities Study Committee was tasked to review police facility needs. Reviewed prior committee work. Established that the need for expansion had become even greater, in order to comply with current codes and mandates and to provide for basic operational needs. Established that expansion cannot be done at Town Hall due to space and code restrictions.

Chief Tom Goulden took members on educational tours provided by the chiefs of 7 neighboring PDs, from small (Mason) to large (Hudson and Milford). Reviewed suggested alternative locations, and determined the Safety Complex remains the best location, with the land already purchased and significant infrastructure already in place.

With buildout population projection at this time approaching 10,000 (and anticipated to grow even further eventually), committee chose to design a 20-year plan (approximately 8,000 pop.), with provision for future expansion.

Chose an architect, chose a Construction Management team to provide design-based pricing (rather than generic), anticipating independent fee-based (not profit-based) expert oversight during construction. Working with Chief Goulden, designed an efficient structure intended to meet the target need for 20 or more years, and to provide for two levels of expansion in the future at minimal cost.

Taken to Town Meeting, it did not pass.