

Public Safety Facilities Planning and Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date	August 31, 2026
Location	Selectboard Conference Room
Time Called to Order	5:37 PM
Time Adjourned	7:30 PM
Status	Formal Draft

Members Present

All members were present.

Call to Order

Chairman Zac Ellison called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the July 27, 2026 meeting. The July 27, 2026 meeting minutes were approved and signed.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Existing Conditions and Shared Facility Problem

The Committee discussed the existing conditions of the current Police and Fire facility and the shared facility issues affecting both departments, with Chairman Ellison leading the discussion and comments made by Chief Ryan Pease and Chief Michael Brennan.

The Next Step Framework Handout was discussed by Secretary James Gennette and further addressed by Chairman Ellison. The discussion led into broader comments regarding public awareness, communication, and the importance of informing the public about the Town's public safety facility needs.

Comments included the following:

- Chairman Ellison discussed the pros and cons related to the project direction.
- Chief Brennan discussed the overall scope of the project.
- Linda Collette discussed public awareness and community outreach.
- Chief Pease discussed location issues and also raised tower considerations.
- Tony Sanches discussed dispatch issues.
- George Costa asked about vehicle inventory and public needs.
- Aneta Lombardi commented on the importance of the public safety departments and noted that they affect all residents.
- Luis Vitorino discussed the needs assessment and where the Committee currently stands in the existing process.
- Luis Vitorino mentioned that the project would be a debt exclusion, implying that it would go to the ballot box.

The Committee also discussed the importance of scheduling a building tour of the Police and Fire Department facilities so that members can better understand the current conditions and operational limitations.

Discussion of Facility Direction

The Committee discussed the possibility of separating Police and Fire into two separate facilities.

During the discussion, Secretary Gennette noted that when the full Committee appears to find common ground on an issue, it may be useful to formalize that agreement in the moment in order to document forward progress.

Chairman Ellison considered whether the Committee should vote to move in the direction of two buildings, with the Police Department separated from the Fire Department. Luis Vitorino expressed concern that he and the other resident members were attending their first meeting and that a vote of that magnitude would be premature.

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The Committee agreed to table the matter. No vote was taken.

Chairman Ellison asked Secretary Gennette to draft a proper motion for future consideration that would allow the Committee to formally discuss whether to move in the direction of two separate facilities. This will give the newer members time to consider the issue before any formal action is taken.

Public Relations Subcommittee

Tony Sanches made a motion to form a Public Relations Subcommittee. Aneta Lombardi seconded the motion.

Linda Collette, George Costa, and Brad Tierney were nominated to serve on the Public Relations Subcommittee.

The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

Building Tour

The Committee agreed that a tour of the Police and Fire Department facilities should be scheduled prior to the next meeting. The purpose of the tour is to allow Committee members to better understand the current building conditions, operational limitations, and overall scope of the facility issues.

Existing Documents and Records

Secretary Gennette requested that existing documents and records related to the public safety facility project be identified and gathered.

Secretary Gennette stated that he had the following documents:

- DLS 2023 Financial Management Review for the Town of Ludlow.
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, State 911 Department, Public Safety Answering Point and Regional Emergency Communication Center Support and Incentive Grants Guidelines, Fiscal Year 2026.

Luis Vitorino requested prior documentation related to the construction bid for the HVAC unit that was pulled on the floor of Town Meeting.

These documents were noted as relevant to the Committee's review of existing conditions, available records, funding considerations, and future public safety facility planning.

New Business

None.

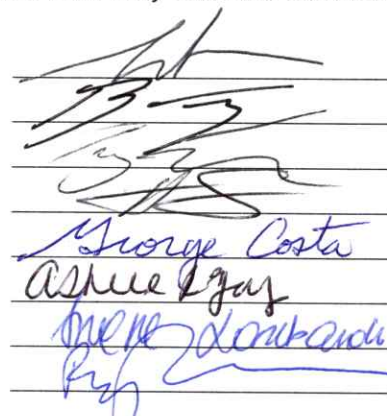
Next Meeting Date

The Committee discussed the next meeting date and the availability of the Selectboard Conference Room. Joshua Carpenter reviewed the Town calendar. The Committee chose to continue meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 PM.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2026.

Adjournment

Joshua Carpenter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Tony Sanches seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.


George Costa
Joshua Carpenter
Aneta Lombardi