

THE PROJECT:

Reconstruction of the existing, outdated and inadequate town safety departments.

*Issues with the existing buildings:

1. Unhealthy working conditions due to an inadequate ventilation system.
2. Lack of proper bathrooms, showers, sleep bays, laundry facility, kitchen, training room and storage areas for necessary equipment. First responders currently have to sleep on old couches and there are no private showers or laundry stations.
3. Inadequate storage bays for town highway and safety vehicles along with lack of file storage area for all departments. There is no private office space and files are currently stored in bays, bathrooms and the mezzanine.
4. Lack of a proper vehicle wash bay. Brimfield has over 3 million dollars invested in emergency vehicles. This winter, because of the cold, we went over a month without being able to wash the equipment because there is no wash bay.
5. Need of potable drinking water and updated heating and water systems. We currently have to purchase water monthly.
6. Extreme drainage and grading issues, currently during storms, water comes through the doors and the garage doors.
7. There is currently an inadequate wastewater system for the septic and exterior vehicle wash area, which is compromising to the adjacent marsh area and subjects us to considerable fines.
8. Currently Police have a tiny room with no private space for interviews, evidence storage and security.

*Benefits of the Project:

1. Safe and clean working conditions for our highway department and first responders.
2. Proper heating, ventilation and septic system.
3. Provides clean drinking water and proper showers, bathrooms, changing rooms, sleep bays and laundry facilities for our first responders. We will be able to tie into the Elementary School well, which has a much larger capacity than it uses.
4. Ensures a structurally sound building, including conference and training rooms, police facility and adequate storage areas for files, equipment and vehicles. This project would bring the buildings up to code.
5. Provides a wash bay and wastewater disposal system to code, to maintain the integrity of the surrounding wetlands.
6. The buildings and offices have not been updated in decades and are not to code. Modern Fire equipment is larger now and thus large bays are required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

◆ What will the cost be for the Project?

The cost will be:	Public Safety Building:	\$3,376,000.00
	Highway Building:	<u>1,199,850.00</u>
	Total:	\$4,575,850.00

◆ How will this be paid for and how will the cost effect my property taxes?

The final funding approach has yet to be approved, but the Finance Committee is developing options to minimize the tax increase for this project by paying about 30% of the debt payments from current taxes and saved reserves. This will lower the amount of debt that voters will be asked to approve excluding from the limit of Proposition 2½. As an example, with a 20 year term loan, payments on principal and interest of the excluded portion of the debt would increase the tax rate by about \$0.52 per \$1000 assessed value. This translates to approximately \$124.55 per year or \$31.14 per quarter for the average house (valued at approximately \$235,000).

◆ Is potable water required?

Yes, and to save money, we can tie into the infrastructure of the Elementary School which has much more capacity than needed. We will not have to drill a new well!

◆ Have grants been pursued?

Yes, a grant committee was formed and significant research went into finding grants, but there are currently no grants available.

◆ Were other properties considered?

Yes. The cost of purchasing land and building a brand new building far exceeded the cost of this project.

◆ What about building a new school and taking over the current school building for town hall offices and safety complex expansion?

This sounds like a great idea, but to receive a state cost share to build a new school, the current school would have to be in severe disrepair, which it isn't. A cost share would not be available. Also, the cost share is usually only a 50% match in towns with our economic base.

◆ When will the new Safety Complex be started?

Approximately Spring 2019

◆ Will we be using solar panels?

They will be considered based on the cost vs. efficiency.

◆ Why do we need a new wash bay?

The current situation of washing vehicles outside is not functional in extreme cold weather and the contaminated water is draining into the surrounding wetlands. There is also the potential of being fined by the D.E.P.

◆ Brimfield has only a part-time fire and police department. Why do we need an expansion?

The police and ambulance departments are on duty 24/7, 365 days a year. The fire department is also on call 24/7. Even small, part time departments need safe working conditions, showers, bathrooms and sleeping quarters. When first responders are called to accidents and emergencies they get covered in soot, dirt, bodily fluids etc. There are currently no private wash areas or laundry facilities.